Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-226
Wednesday
23 November 1994

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-226 *23 November 1994*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Palestinians Urged To Use Dialogue, Not Violence *[Cairo Radio]* 1

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat: Tension Related to West Bank Power Transfer *[Jericho VOP]* 1
'Arafat To Visit Jordan at End of Month *[AL-DUSTUR 19 Nov]* 1
Official Affirms al-Tarifi, Jibril Represent PA *[MENA]* 1
'Abd-Rabbuh Blames PA, Hamas for Gaza 'Massacre' *[MENA]* 1
Quray' Urges PLO, Fatah Meetings To View Clash *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 20 Nov]* 2
'Abd-al-Shafi on People's Frustration, Elections *[MENA]* 2
'Abd-al-Shafi: No Agreement Between PA, Hamas *[Cairo International]* 3
Fatah Faction Blames 'Zionist Enemy' for Clashes *[Jerusalem Radio]* 4
Fatah Central Committee Discusses Gaza Events *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 22 Nov]* 4
Fatah Calls For Solidarity March in Jericho *[Jericho VOP]* 5
Activists Instructed To Maintain Order *[Jericho VOP]* 5
Hamas Says 'Inaccurate Picture' Given to 'Arafat *[MENA]* 5
Hamas Blames 'Arafat, Clinton, Rabin for 'Massacre' *[AL-SABIL 22-28 Nov]* 5
Hamas Spokesman Says 'Arafat Must Leave Gaza *[London AL-HAYAH 20 Nov]* 6
Hamas' Ghoshe: 'Arafat 'Number One Enemy of Democracy' *[Rotterdam NRC HANDELSBLAD 21 Nov]* 7
Hamas Leader Call For Agreement With PA *[Jerusalem Radio]* 9
Fatah, Hamas Figures Cited on Gaza Clashes *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 19 Nov]* 9
Islamic Jihad Leader on Gaza Events *[AL-BILAD 23 Nov]* 10
DFLP Said Planning Political Party in Israel *[Jerusalem Radio]* 11
PFLP's Habash Rules Out Agreement With 'Arafat *[London AL-WASAT 21-27 Nov]* 11
PFLP-GC's Jibril on Peace, Syria, Iran *[London AL-WASAT 20 Nov]* 12
Shots Fired at IDF; Device Explodes in Gaza *[Jerusalem Radio]* 16
'Foreign Forces' Told To Stop Fueling Gaza Strife *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 21 Nov]* 16
Police Recruitment Seen as 'Arafat Anti-Hamas Move *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 18 Nov]* 17
PA Breaks Off Water Deal With French Company *[Paris Radio]* 17
Gaza Living Standards Fall by Half in 14 Months *[AFP]* 17
Company Threatens To Stop Jericho Radio Transmission *[Paris AL-MUHARRIR 21 Nov]* 18

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Opposition Organizations Hold Meeting in Rome 19
Government, Other Groups Boycott Talks *[Algiers TV]* 19
Reactions to Rome Meeting *[Algiers TV]* 19
Opposition Officials Comment *[Paris TV]* 20
FLN Committee Condemns Meeting *[Algiers Radio]* 20
Parties Agree To Continue Dialogue *[Kuwait TV]* 20
Meeting Ends *[Paris International]* 21
Security Forces Kill 4 'Terrorists,' Seize Arms *[Algiers Radio]* 21

Egypt

Musa on Syrian Track, Iraqi, Sudanese Issues *[Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI 18 Nov]* 21
Six Arrested in Mubarak Assassination Plot *[AFP]* 22
Police Officers Killed in Upper Egypt Region 23
Sentry Killed in Mallawi *[MENA]* 23
Further on Killing in Mallawi *[AFP]* 23
Three Policemen Killed in Manfalut *[MENA]* 23
Reaction to Deaths of Nationals in Jordan, Iraq *[AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I 17 Nov]* 23
Writer Sees Saddam Husayn's Neck 'in U.S. Hands' *[AL-AHRAM 17 Nov]* 24
University President on Elections, Extremism *[AL-MUSAWWAR 18 Nov]* 24

ARABIAN PENINSULA

GCC Foreign Ministers Hold Meeting in Bahrain 26
Meeting Opens *[WAKH]* 26
Meeting Ends *[WAKH]* 26

Kuwait

Assembly Satisfied With Iraqi Recognition *[KUNA]* 26
Minister on Arab League Future, Iraq Embargo *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 19 Nov]* 26
UK's Major Sends Message to Heir Apparent *[KUNA]* 27

Saudi Arabia

Cabinet on Palestinian Issue, Chernomyrdin Visit *[SPA]* 27
King, French Prime Minister Discuss Cooperation *[Riyadh TV]* 27

IRAQ

Russian Duma Delegation Meets With Officials 28
Duma Member Urges Lifting Sanctions *[INA]* 28
Ramadan Meets Delegation *[INA]* 28
Assembly Speaker Meets Delegation *[INA]* 28
Barzani, Talabani Parties Sign 'Alliance Document' *[Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan]* 28
Saddam Lauds 'Good' State Employees *[Baghdad Radio]* 29
Regime Reportedly Ignoring Smuggling From Iran *[Voice of Iraqi People]* 29

ISRAEL

Rabin on Clinton Talks, Says No Progress With Syria *[Jerusalem Radio]* 30
Peres on Syrian Stalemate, PA Financial Crisis *[Jerusalem Radio]* 30
Sharon: Rabin, al-Asad Achieve 'Dramatic Progress' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 31
Beilin on Progress on Syrian Track, Iraq *[Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO 20 Nov]* 31
Rabin Not To Seek Defense Pact With U.S. *[MA'ARIV 23 Nov]* 32
Rabin's Office Denies 'Untrue' Settlement Data *[Jerusalem Radio]* 33
Egyptian Paper: U.S. Embassy To Locate in Jerusalem *[AL-AHRAM 16 Nov]* 33
Netanyahu, Rabin Deny Unity Government Discussed *[HA'ARETZ 20 Nov]* 33
Beilin on 'Positive' Saudi Attitude to Peace *[Jerusalem Radio]* 33
Sarid Said To Plan Compromise on Settlement *[HA'ARETZ 18 Nov]* 34
Sources: 'Arafat Unable To Change Covenant Clauses *[HATZOFE 20 Nov]* 35
Palestinians Asked To Reinforce Netzarim Police *[DAVAR 20 Nov]* 35
IDF General Blames Syria for Infiltrations *[Jerusalem Radio]* 36
Commander on Decision Not To Abandon Netzarim *['AL HAMISHMAR 22 Nov]* 36
Soldiers Said 'Easy Targets' at Many Gaza Sites *[Jerusalem Radio]* 36
'Terrorists' Said To Smuggle Explosives From Egypt *[Jerusalem Radio]* 37

JORDAN

Foreign Ministry Denies Naming Ambassador to Israel *[AL-ASWAQ 23 Nov]* 38
Joint Transport Committee With Israel Meets *[Amman Radio]* 38

'First-Ever' Shipping Agreement Reached *[Jerusalem Radio]* 38
Official Comments on Tomatoes Exported to Israel *[Amman TV]* 38
Israeli Officials Discuss Development Projects *[JORDAN TIMES 23 Nov]* 38
Minister on Need To Amend Laws After Treaty *[AL-DUSTUR 19 Nov]* 39

LEBANON

Al-Hirawi on Peace Talks, Syria, U.S. Position *[AL-SAFIR 14 Nov]* 40
U.S.-Israeli Talks on Pullout Detailed *[VOL]* 43
Shaykh Opposes Opening Marine Blast Case *[AL-DIYAR 18 Nov]* 43

SYRIA

Argentine Government Delegation Continues Visit 44
Al-Asad Meets Counterpart Menem *[Damascus TV]* 44
Argentine Foreign Minister on Policy *[Buenos Aires TELAM 22 Nov]* 44
Cooperation Accords Signed *[Damascus Radio]* 45
Al-Zu'bi Stresses 'Just, Comprehensive' Peace *[Damascus Radio]* 45

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

President Meets Afghan Refugees From Pakistan *[Kabul Radio]* 46
Hekmatyar Forces Ignore WHO Cease-Fire Agreement *[Kabul Radio]* 46
Hekmatyar Hopes For Islamic Elected Government *[Message of Freedom]* 46

Bangladesh

High-Level Meeting Held on Bosnian Situation *[Dhaka Radio]* 46
Zia Condoles Death of State Education Minister *[Dhaka International]* 47

India

Bombs, Explosives Seized From Election Candidates *[Delhi Radio]* 47
Nine Militants Killed in Kashmir Encounters *[Delhi Radio]* 47
Editorial: Bhutto Trying To 'Buy Time' in Talks *[THE HINDUSTAN TIMES 23 Nov]* 47
Paper Views Pakistan's Rejection of Talks *[THE PIONEER 23 Nov]* 48
ISI Reports on Joint Commission With Uzbekistan 48
Commentary Views Ties With Nepal After Elections *[Delhi International]* 49

Iran

Ministry Says NATO Strike on Udbina 'Not Enough' *[IRNA]* 49
German Intelligence Denies 'Warning' Report *[IRNA]* 50
Activist Claims Germany Helping Tehran Regime *[Munich FOCUS 21 Nov]* 50
Paper on Velayati's Tour of Yemen, Oman, Qatar *[IRNA]* 51
Kazakh Supreme Council Chairman Begins Visit *[Tehran TV]* 52
China, Russia Interested in Atomic Cooperation *[IRNA]* 52
Commentary on Dispute Over Islands, Court *[Tehran International]* 52
Commentary on Middle East Peace Process *[HAMSHAHRI 3 Nov]* 53
Students View Problems in 4 Nov Marches *[JAHAN-E ESLAM 14 Nov]* 54
Need Seen for Inquiry Into Fate of Abducted Clerics *[SALAM 10 Nov]* 56
French Reporters, Artists Provide Moral Support *[London KEYHAN 3 Nov]* 56
*World Reaction to Writers' Open Letter *[London KEYHAN 3 Nov]* 56
No Change Seen in OPEC Production Ceiling *[IRNA]* 57
Industries Minister on Importance of Productivity *[IRNA]* 57

Maldives

Radio Reports Lifting of Ban on Israeli Goods *[Delhi Radio]* 57

Nepal

Communist Party Elects Parliamentary Leader *[Delhi Radio]* 57

Inter-Arab Affairs

Palestinians Urged To Use Dialogue, Not Violence

NC2011162094 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 20 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Arab League today called on the Palestinians to practice self-restraint and use the language of dialogue instead of violence, which will affect the struggle and valuable sacrifices of the Palestinian people, as well as their aspirations for construction and building.

In a statement issued today, the Arab League said this means that everyone should restore calm and quiet among the Palestinian people. The Arab League also asked the international community, particularly the donor countries, to send their financial pledges to the Palestinians quickly, particularly in the Gaza Strip, which is suffering from economic collapse and noticeable deterioration in its standard of living. The Arab League expressed grave concern over the large scale of inter-Palestinian confrontations. It warned that this has grave portents, not only for the Palestinian people, but the whole Middle East region.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat: Tension Related to West Bank Power Transfer

JN2311080694 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 23 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the Palestinian National Authority, has said that there is a connection between what is taking place in terms of sedition, tension, and the fabrication of minor and major incidents and the National Authority's imminent assumption of its powers in the West Bank. His excellency reiterated the National Authority's determination to proceed on its road, armed with this growing support for our Palestinian masses, who can end all acts of violence, nip the sedition in the bud, and foil the criminals' attempts.

'Arafat To Visit Jordan at End of Month

JN1911110594 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 19 Nov 94 pp 3, 21

[Report by Tawfiq 'Abid]

[FBIS Translated Text] Palestinian diplomatic sources in Amman have stated that President Yasir 'Arafat, head of the Palestinian National Authority, will arrive in Amman within the last three days of this month.

The sources told AL-DUSTUR that the postponement of the visit is due to previous engagements by His Majesty King Husayn, Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, and President Yasir 'Arafat who will visit Spain in the next few days.

The Palestinian sources said a ranking Palestinian delegation will hold preliminary negotiations with Jordanian officials that will precede the Jordanian-Palestinian summit to reach agreement on some of the issues that have been deferred by the two parties.

The delegation comprises Culture Minister Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, Economy Minister Ahmad Quray', and others.

The sources did not rule out a meeting by the Jordanian-Palestinian Committee whose monthly meeting was supposed to be held three weeks ago, but which was not held following Israel's closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip and the suicide operation by the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Battalions in the center of Tel Aviv.

The sources said that on his first visit to Jordan since his return to the Gaza Strip President 'Arafat will sign four agreements: the economic, monetary, banking, and transportation agreements.

His Majesty King Husayn invited President 'Arafat to visit Jordan in a telephone conversation they had in the middle of last week.

The Palestinian diplomatic sources described Jordanian-Palestinian relations as good and said they have returned to normal after many stands on many issues have been clarified.

Official Affirms al-Tarifi, Jibril Represent PA

NC2211223094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2150 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza, 22 Nov (MENA)—Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, the media adviser for the Palestinian president, has affirmed that Jamil al-Tarifi, currently in Paris, is on a special mission to France in his capacity as minister in the Palestinian National Authority [PNA; Palestinian Authority, PA]. His duties include coordination of international affairs.

This statement to MENA came in response to some reports published by Western news agencies that al-Tarifi does not represent the PNA. Mr. Abu-Rudaynah said that Mr. Jibril, who is accompanying al-Tarifi, is the economic adviser for President 'Arafat.

'Abd-Rabbuh Blames PA, Hamas for Gaza 'Massacre'

NC2211192094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1405 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Tunis, 22 Nov (MENA)—Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, minister of culture at the Palestinian Authority [PA], has labelled the Gaza incident last Friday [18 November] a real massacre.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Not only should the massacre be condemned, but it should also serve as a lesson so that Palestinian blood is never again shed by Palestinian hands, he said.

In a statement published today in the Tunisian newspaper AL-SHURUQ, 'Abd-Rabbuh said: I do not exempt Hamas [the Islamic Resistance Movement] from responsibility for the massacre, but I believe the PA also bears part of the responsibility, if not directly then at least for the lack of the institutions needed to protect social and political peace at home.

He said that there must be a prompt revision of the PA's methods and policies so that it can wage the most difficult battle in Palestine's history in implementing the remainder of the agreement [the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles], which is the substance of the agreement.

Our problem, 'Abd-Rabbuh said, is the domination of individuals, lack of preparation, lack of institutions, and a separation between the PA and the PLO's leading organizations.

He explained that the biggest threat to the PA is its detachment from the popular movement under the cloud of these negative practices. No authority can struggle to achieve national independence and end occupation without establishing itself as an institutionalized authority, one in which the institutions serve as the link between the national movement and the authority within the framework of a unified struggle to end the occupation, he said.

'Abd-Rabbuh urged the Arab countries not to rush toward normalization with Israel, because, thus far, Israel has only withdrawn from less than 10 percent of the occupied Palestinian territory. Moreover, substantive issues, such as those concerning Jerusalem and the refugees, are still unresolved, and the substantive part of the provisional self-rule agreement has not yet been implemented.

Accelerating Arab-Israeli normalization, 'Abd-Rabbuh explained, will not encourage peace and stability in the region but may rather serve as a short cut to further explosions. He said citizens in every country will sense the huge gap between normalization on the one hand and the fact that the occupation continues and the issue of Palestinian self-determination and national liberation remains unresolved on the other.

'Abd-Rabbuh accused Israel of trying to use some vague points and shortcomings of the agreement to put off its implementation. Israel's main objective, he charged, is to evade the timetable set by the agreement, especially on withdrawing the Israeli Army from West Bank cities and villages and the holding of elections. He pointed out that the elections were supposed to be held last July.

Quray' Urges PLO, Fatah Meetings To View Clash

MM2211114294 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 20 Nov 94 p3

[FBIS Translated Excerpts] Tunis, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Ahmad Quray' (Abu-'Ala'), economy minister in the Palestinian National Authority [PNA], has called for urgent meetings of the PLO Executive Committee and Fatah's Central Committee to discuss the extremely serious situation resulting from the bloody confrontation which occurred the day before yesterday in Gaza between the Palestinian police and Hamas and Islamic Jihad members in which 15 people were killed and 200 others sustained various injuries. He said he believed that the Palestinian Authority [PA] would launch a major inquiry into the causes of this painful incident and the individuals who played a negative part in it.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Abu-'Ala', who is currently in Tunis, said that what happened in Gaza was "a very serious matter reflecting a very serious situation. The PA and all the patriotic factions, forces, and figures should see this incident as an ample lesson necessitating a new way of tackling the problems and challenges facing the Palestinian people at this dangerous and historic juncture."

Abu-'Ala' pointed out that what happened affected the PA very much, was of major significance, and was a serious lesson, which should not be ignored, for all the patriotic forces, factions, and figures who should play their part through the Palestinian institutions of the PLO or through the PNA's institutions, or through new frameworks. "The aim is to have everyone contribute to the capabilities and effectiveness of our people in facing the challenges." [passage omitted]

Abu-'Ala' denied that what happened was a prelude to inter-Palestinian fighting and civil war. He said: "Our people are mature and responsible enough and have had enough past bitter experience to learn the lessons, draw the right conclusions, and steer clear of anything that might lead to Palestinian fratricide." [passage omitted]

'Abd-al-Shafi on People's Frustration, Elections

NC2211132994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1020 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza, 22 Nov (MENA)—Red Crescent Chief in Gaza Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi [former head of Palestinian delegation to Washington peace talks] has warned that Israel's continued procrastination and lack of commitment to implement the agreements it signed with the Palestinian Authority [PA] will push matters to a more dangerous impasse and threaten the entire peace operation.

In an interview with MENA'S correspondent in Gaza today, 'Abd-al-Shafi noted that the events of the past few

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

days are not merely a sign of differences among various Palestinian political factions but a proof that the Palestinian masses are not satisfied with current peace moves.

He added that the facts have not changed: the settlements are still in place and are indeed being expanded and entrenched despite the UN resolutions declaring them illegal and contrary to human rights, the Geneva Conventions, and the United Nations.

'Abd-al-Shafi pointed out that the Palestinians abided by the Oslo Agreement but Israel did not and hence the Palestinians have the right to use all means to expose the true nature of Israel's position to the world.

'Abd-al-Shafi said that the time is not right to resort to arms and violence. He said the PA must not remain silent about Israel's actions but must reveal to the world that it is hindering peace and violating the Oslo Agreement, which has no provisions allowing Israel to continue its settlement activities.

He announced that the Palestinians stand to gain nothing from their infighting. Describing inter-Palestinian clashes as bad, he said they give the world an unsatisfactory impression of the Palestinian public.

'Abd-al-Shafi added: We have sought to contain the situation and have tried to start a dialogue between Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the PA. However, mediation efforts and even a dialogue will not succeed unless the peace process is given the necessary credibility. This is the PA's task.

He said that he believes the problem is not merely between Hamas and the PA but is a question of the people feeling frustrated by the facts around them.

'Abd-al-Shafi said: I fear that the whole nation will stand up and proclaim its stance soon.

He noted that the issue goes beyond the donor countries' failure to meet their financial commitments, saying: We must not confuse the issues. The problem is how to manage our affairs. This is the PA's task. It must prove that we are a nation able to run its own affairs without custodianship.

He stressed that the PA needs to employ competent personnel without being governed by personal or political considerations.

'Abd-al-Shafi concluded his remarks by declaring that elections are the only way to correct the current errors, whether Israel agrees or not because elections are part of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. He said that no one must interfere with these elections, which must be legislative and not merely administrative elections.

'Abd-al-Shafi: No Agreement Between PA, Hamas

NC2311100594 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 23 Nov 94

[Interview with Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, chairman of the Palestinian Red Crescent Society and former head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, in Gaza, by Fawzi al-Jundi, in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Jundi] Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi, let us start this dialogue with a specific question. Has an agreement been reached between the Palestinian Authority [PA] and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic al-Jihad or are the reports about such an agreement only reports?

['Abd-al-Shafi] No agreement has been reached so far. The reason is that each side is claiming that the other side started the shooting. No agreement has been reached because of this. There is now a judicial committee and a fact-finding one looking into the incidents to ascertain the side that started the fighting. I believe that the situation will remain calm until the results of the investigations become known.

[Al-Jundi] We are not trying to point out who is responsible, but we want to know what all the Palestinian factions, especially those operating in the Palestinian territories, should do to handle the challenges facing our people.

['Abd-al-Shafi] What is needed is quite clear. We have no hope of obtaining anything if we do not unite and achieve one Palestinian stance. What happened was a shameful episode in Palestinian history, and every Palestinian should be ashamed and disappointed by it. We hope that all the Palestinians will understand that Palestinian infighting is totally unacceptable.

[Al-Jundi] Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, do you believe that the delay in sending aid to the PA is the main reason for the violence in the Palestinian self-rule areas?

['Abd-al-Shafi] The issue is deeper than that. The deteriorating economic situation, Israel's closure of the Gaza Strip, depriving the Palestinians of the job opportunities on which they depended, and the delay in receiving aid are all important factors. But the most important factor is that the peace process lacks credibility. The Israeli practices continue to be inconsistent with the peace requirements. By this, I mean the continuing settlement process in Jerusalem and elsewhere and the building of the infrastructure that consolidates the existing settlements. These practices are making the hope of establishing an independent Palestinian state recede still further. The lack of credibility in the process is the background for these inconsistencies and differences.

[Al-Jundi] It is apparent to all that President Husni Mubarak spoke on more than one occasion during his current European tour about the need to bolster the PA to protect the peace process. It is clear that a large number of officials active in the international arena have shown a deep understanding of President Mubarak's call. Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi, as a prominent Palestinian official with a long history of struggle in the Palestinian arena, how do you view this Egyptian action?

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

['Abd-al-Shafi] This is a commendable act, but much more is needed. As I said, the important thing is that Israel's actions are inconsistent with the peace goal, namely the continuing settlements, yet it is getting aid from the United States and the world.

[Al-Jundi] But, permit me to stop at this point. As we are talking about President Mubarak's efforts to support the PA and since you mentioned U.S.-Israeli relations, it is clear that President Mubarak's call was on the negotiating table between U.S. President Bill Clinton and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in Washington. Rabin asked Clinton to urge the donor countries to give aid to the PA. How do you assess this stance?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Good. This will help the economic situation. But this is an auxiliary factor. What remains to be done and what we are asking President Mubarak and the Arab world to do is to exert pressure on the United States to follow a balanced and fair course on this issue. Israel should not remain in a strong position and the Palestinians in a weak one.

[Al-Jundi] But you need to unite your ranks first and establish unity among the Palestinian people.

['Abd-al-Shafi] You are right, but respect for law does not necessarily depend on the Palestinians' unity. I insist on appealing to and pressuring the world to honor its claims of support for law and justice and not to act according to the existing double standards.

[Al-Jundi] Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi, thank you.

['Abd-al-Shafi] Thank you.

Fatah Faction Blames 'Zionist Enemy' for Clashes

TA2211152594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] One of the Fatah factions in the Gaza Strip published a leaflet today under the banner Fatah 65, in which it claims that the bloodshed in Gaza was perpetrated by agents of the Zionist enemy who had been planted in the Palestinian Authority. This was reported by our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem.

Fatah Central Committee Discusses Gaza Events

MM2211155194 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 22 Nov 94 p3

[FBIS Translated Text] Tunis, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—The Fatah Central Committee has called for an immediate inquiry into the serious incidents which occurred in the Gaza Strip last Friday [18 November] between the Palestinian police and Hamas and Islamic Jihad demonstrators. It said that the arms in the hands of the fighters in the Palestinian Authority will never be aimed at our people and loved ones because these arms are for the defense of the people and the territory and for the fulfillment of the national aims of independence and freedom. The Fatah Central Committee members who met in Tunis the night before last, namely Faruq Qaddumi (Abu-al-Lutf), Mahmud 'Abbas (Abu-Mazin), Muhammad Ghunaym (Abu-Mahir), Ahmad Quray' (Abu-'Ala'), Sakhr Habash, and Muhammad Jihad—Hakam Bal'awi could not attend because of sickness—said that the severest punishment should be meted out to those who caused the painful events, whatever their affiliations.

The committee called on its cadres, grass roots, and all the Palestinian people to stand united against the advocates of sedition and infighting and to prohibit the use of arms in the settlement of disputes between the nationalist and Islamic forces in Gaza. It stressed that "the shedding of Palestinian blood on any pretext is rejected and condemned."

The committee also urged the National Authority to correct its political, economic, and administrative views, create institutions, and respects the rules, laws, and regulations of collective work because "these are the main prerequisites for a sound national program and for the protection of the national gains of our revolution."

At the end of its meeting, the committee issued a statement emphasizing that that savage massacre was what Israel always openly wanted because Palestinian sedition and infighting top the list of Israeli strategic objectives to undermine our people's firm unity, which produced the blessed intifadah and forced the enemy out of Gaza.

[It added:] Israel's aim is to weaken and divide the national ranks, which have been united in support of our quest for independence and freedom. For five months the Israeli Government has been trying to avoid implementation of the Oslo and Cairo agreements under which it is supposed to surrender its powers, withdraw from the West Bank, and release the detainees from the occupation prisons.

Spilling Palestinian blood on any pretext is rejected and condemned. Our movement, Fatah, will not permit the advocates of sedition and infighting to turn Gaza into a bloodbath that would only benefit Israel, which occupies the territories and Jerusalem and which denies our people their right to self-determination and their right to an independent state with holy Jerusalem as its capital. The abominable events of Gaza make it incumbent on all the Palestinian patriotic forces to immediately and seriously shoulder their responsibilities and to start a comprehensive, constructive national dialogue to emerge from this difficult crisis with a united national stand and common denominators to prevent a repetition of what happened and provide security for our masses who saw the end of the occupation and the emergence of the Palestinian Authority as a sign of hope for a bright future in an independent Palestinian state.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Fatah Calls For Solidarity March in Jericho

JN2211163394 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Fatah Movement has urged its cadres, supporters, and Palestinian masses to stage a march of support for the Palestinian National Authority tomorrow Wednesday in Jericho.

The call was made in a statement published by local newspapers today. The statement said the Fatah Movement urges all its supporters and Palestinian masses to join the march of support for the Palestinian leadership and the Palestinian National Authority. The statement stressed that the march should aim to bolster national unity among all political parties and trends in the Palestinian arena.

At the pledge, support, and solidarity march staged in Gaza yesterday by 100,000 people in the National Authority areas, His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat, head of the Palestinian National Authority, emphasized the independence of the Palestinian decision and the importance of cementing Palestinian national unity. Our hand, he said, is outstretched to build this homeland. His excellency also demanded the release of Shaykh Ahmad Yasin.

Activists Instructed To Maintain Order

JN2211164194 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1536 GMT 22 Nov 94

["Call" by the Palestine National Liberation Movement, Fatah, to Fatah activists; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Call, call, call. To all the free and noble ones, to the proud children of Fatah: You are the trustworthy ones who will remain true to the blood of the martyrs. You are the bearers of the sacred message of protecting our people, their achievements and sanctities. We appeal to everyone not to display weapons in any form. Consider this a strict organizational order that you must obey. We ask you to be very alert and take maximum precautions toward any suspect behavior and to bring this to the attention of the brothers who are entrusted with preserving security and order. We ask you to fully abide by the instructions of security men and to follow their directives.

Playing or tampering with weapons is completely forbidden. Everyone must walk slowly and in an orderly fashion during the marches.

[Signed] The Palestine National Liberation Movement, Fatah

Hamas Says 'Inaccurate Picture' Given to 'Arafat

NC2211222694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2140 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza, 22 Nov (MENA)—Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar, the official spokesman for Hamas in Gaza, and Talab al-Sani', Israeli Knesset member in the Arab Bloc, exchanged accusations today over the fact that al-Sani' did not accurately convey to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat the facts from the meeting of the follow-up committee on the events of last Friday in Gaza.

Talab al-Sani', who was the contact between Hamas and the Palestinian National Authority [PNA], said this evening in a statement to Israeli television that he regretted statements by al-Zahhar that no agreement had been reached with the PNA. He said that al-Zahhar's stand is a retraction of the agreement that was reached, which contains eight articles.

For his part, Dr. al-Zahhar said in a statement to MENA that no final agreement between Hamas and the PNA had been reached. He added that truth of the situation is that 25 people from the West Bank and the various factions and parties met within the framework of the follow-up committee. The meeting went on for five hours, after which some participants left.

He added that al-Sani' conveyed an inaccurate picture of events during the meeting to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat in that he presented only the areas of agreement without presenting the areas of disagreement.

Al-Zahhar once again affirmed that Hamas' stand rejects armed action against Palestinians no matter where they are and despite any differences between them. Coupled with this, should be attempts to calm the situation. As for differences with the PNA, it can be summed up by saying that Hamas is asking the PNA to declare its responsibility for what happened. This is the part that Talab al-Sani' did not convey to 'Arafat, al-Zahhar said.

Hamas Blames 'Arafat, Clinton, Rabin for 'Massacre'

JN2211125694 Amman AL-SABIL in Arabic 22-28 Nov 94 p 10

[Interview with Ibrahim Ghawshah, official spokesman for the Hamas, by Samih al-Ma'ayitah on 19 November; place not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [al-Ma'ayitah] Do you think that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], and the Islamic Jihad Movement, on the one hand, and the Palestinian Authority, on the other, could have averted what happened through wisdom and self-restraint?

[Ghawshah] I must object to the question because responsibility is not shouldered by two parties. The massacre was planned and designed by one party, which is 'Arafat's authority. As soon as the Palestinian masses, including Hamas, went out of the mosque at the end of prayers, fire was opened at them. Therefore, the operation was preplanned, and there is scientific evidence of this. Here are a few facts:

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

- Is it a mere coincidence that [Egyptian] President Husni Mubarak told the British newspapers one day before the massacre that a huge explosion would take place in Gaza. It is known that Mubarak has great influence on 'Arafat, and logic indicated that something big would begin in the Gaza Strip.

- Twenty-four hours before the massacre, Mordekhay Gur, the Zionist deputy defense minister, announced that if 'Arafat wants the negotiations to continue and to be allowed to expand in the West Bank, he should control all of the Palestinian people because the Israelis, as he said, do not accept that 'Arafat only controls half of the Palestinian people.

- The third thing is the information Hamas received from al-Shifa' Hospital that instructions had been issued Friday morning to prepare the hospital to receive many serious cases.

But is 'Arafat the only one responsible? In addition to 'Arafat, Clinton and Rabin are also responsible for the blood of the martyrs and injured, and the detainees. For over a month now, there has been continuous incitement and pressure from the U.S. Administration and the Zionist government that if he wants to remain chairman of the Palestinian Authority he should start liquidating the Hamas Movement. On Friday, 'Arafat decided to begin the liquidation operation against the Palestinian opposition, which is led by Hamas.

[Al-Ma'ayitah] Don't you believe that such a massacre does not serve 'Arafat and puts him in an embarrassing situation, at least with his people?

[Ghawshah] This depends on how the results are controlled. 'Arafat and those around him may have thought that they could control Hamas or the Palestinian masses by opening fire with such intensity that it was described by one eyewitness as the most intense fire that he had ever heard on the Strip. 'Arafat probably thought that with this strong blow he could destroy or terrorize the Hamas Movement. However, this operation and the experience of the Palestinian people were not been calculated by 'Arafat. Perhaps the next days will show that 'Arafat was surprised by these results and the popular uprising that engulfed the whole of the Strip.

[Al-Ma'ayitah] But such behavior is not expected of anyone who knows the Palestinian people or the Gaza Strip?

[Ghawshah] Who says that 'Arafat knows the Palestinian people well. Has any Palestinian leader before 'Arafat agreed to relinquish Palestine? 'Arafat does not know the Palestinian people and, had he known them well, he would not have signed the limited self-rule agreement. Had 'Arafat known the Palestinian people well he would not have dealt a lethal blow to the intifadah by signing the agreement, especially since Shamir and Rabin had not been able to destroy the intifadah. Finally, had 'Arafat known the Palestinian people well, he would not have committed the latest massacre.

[Al-Ma'ayitah] In your opinion was the Gaza massacre the beginning of a new stage or was it another passing incident that will be disappear without results?

[Ghawshah] My view is that what happened was important and was not a casual incident. It will be followed by other developments. The Palestinian people are now in one trench and 'Arafat is in the Zionist trench. The Hamas Movement warned 'Arafat that he was antagonizing the Palestinian people and that he was doing what even Lahd had not done in south Lebanon.

[Al-Ma'ayitah] Do you expect an escalation?

[Ghawshah] We do not wish for an escalation and we want Palestinian blood to be spared, but what happened is not something easy. The blood that was shed between 'Arafat and the Palestinian people is difficult to overlook. In my assessment, the Palestinian people will not accept 'Arafat and his authority in the Strip. The slogans heard by all asked 'Arafat to leave the Gaza Strip. [passage omitted]

Hamas Spokesman Says 'Arafat Must Leave Gaza

MM2111122694 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 20 Nov 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by 'Ali Nun: "Ghawshah Tells AL-HAYAH: " 'Arafat Must Leave Gaza"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London—Ibrahim Ghawshah, official spokesman for the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), has accused the Palestinian National Authority and its head, Yasir 'Arafat, of "programming and planning the Gaza massacre." He told AL-HAYAH over the telephone yesterday that 'Arafat must leave Gaza and hold direct elections to choose a civilian leadership for the Palestinian people. He stressed that "the people will not allow what has happened to pass as though nothing had happened."

Ghawshah said: "The event is very big—bigger than the current mediation efforts. There is blood between the Authority and the Palestinian people. The massacre can be compared with the big massacres committed against the Palestinian people, and people cannot overlook it. The matter requires profound reflection. The story is programmed and planned and could not have been the work of the police command or some of its officers. In fact 'Arafat himself issued the order. If the same mentality continues, and if the same plan continues to hit the opposition and the Islamic forces, it means that there is no optimism about the mediation." He stressed that "the head of the Palestinian Authority is a principal party to what has happened, and he is responsible for the bloodshed and the victims that have fallen. The West Bank is boiling now, and so is Gaza. The Palestinian people do not want 'Arafat and are demanding that he leave the Strip."

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

He pointed out that what is being proposed is "for 'Arafat to leave Gaza and for free elections to be held to choose a real civilian leadership elected directly by the Palestinian people without any link with a political agreement with Israel or anyone else. That is the real solution and way out of the crisis. If they want the Gaza Strip not to become an explosive powder keg, they have to rectify matters and respect pluralism. But to continue to rule the Gaza Strip with fire and the sword is unacceptable. I am certain that the brothers in Hamas (inside) [the occupied territories] will not allow what has happened to pass."

Asked whether his statement means a call for direct revenge against the Palestinian police and the National Authority, Ghawshah pointed out that "it means that what has happened should not pass as though nothing had happened or without holding these people to account and bringing them to trial. The trial should not be conducted by the authority, because it is the one which committed the massacre. Those who issued the orders and those who implemented them should be brought to trial before any settlement or any attempt to secure a settlement."

On the Palestinian Authority's accusation that Hamas submitted to foreign instigations, Hamas' spokesman said that the Authority "fabricates various stories to conceal its crime. Everyone knows that Hamas' decision-making is internal. It is the Palestinian Authority which is linked to the outside world, not us."

Answering another question, he said that " 'Arafat prepared for this crime, but he was surprised by the Palestinian people's response inside and outside. He had not expected it. He wanted to implement what (U.S. President Bill) Clinton and (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq) Rabin requested him to implement, namely to check [tahjim] and eliminate the Palestinian Islamic movement. But he miscalculated just as he did in the past when he signed the Oslo accord. He ignored the fact that the Palestinian people as a whole reject this accord. 'Arafat is reaping what he sowed."

Asked how any solution can be achieved in Gaza when Hamas continues to refuse to open a political dialogue with 'Arafat, Ghawshah said that "the political dialogue with 'Arafat was suspended when he signed the Oslo accord. Isolated meetings were held, and the objective was to contain any development or tension in Gaza. But Hamas took a specific political decision, namely to limit the armed confrontation to the occupation authority. We said that we were keen to avoid any fratricide. But the equation has two parties: us and them. 'Arafat violated this equation, pushing matters to the current situation. The dialogue cannot be one-sided."

Ghawshah cited " 'Arafat's agreement with Rabin in their recent meeting not to talk about the security aspect in their news conference. 'Arafat pledged to eliminate the Palestinian forces, and if he continues that, we can expect other attacks from 'Arafat's clique."

Hamas' Ghoshe: 'Arafat 'Number One Enemy of Democracy'

BR2211135394 Rotterdam NRC HANDELSBLAD in Dutch 21 Nov 94 p 9

[Interview with Hamas spokesman Ibrahim Ghoshe, by Michael Stein; in Amman, date not given: "'Yasir 'Arafat Tells Lies as Easily as He Breathes'"—first 10 paragraphs are NRC HANDELSBLAD introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Shortly before the bloody clashes last Friday [18 November] in the Gaza Strip between Yasir 'Arafat's police and his radical Islamic opponents, Michael Stein had an interview in the Jordanian capital Amman with Ibrahim Ghoshe, spokesman of the Hamas Islamic fundamentalist movement.

It appears self-contradictory, but there is no more cautious radical Islamic movement than Hamas, the Palestinian wing of the Muslim Brotherhood. Hamas was and is always ready to bend with the conditions of the time. Ghoshe, formerly an engineer and now Hamas' spokesman in Amman, closely follows this principle.

Of course, he continually preaches the struggle against Israel. But he does it in a very cautious manner. Because Hamas wants to keep and not spoil the excellent relations of the Muslim Brotherhood with King Husayn of Jordan. Unlike so many other Muslim Brothers, Ghoshe has no difficulty at all in using dirty words like "Israelis" and "the state of Israel."

It is still too early to openly declare war on 'Arafat, with whom Hamas is engaged in a deadly struggle. But Ghoshe does not hesitate to call the PLO leader a liar. "Arafat tells lies as easily as he breathes," Ghoshe said. "For example he once invented an agreement between Hamas and Iran. He also told all the media that I had signed that agreement in Qom, while I have never been in Qom."

During the last few weeks Ghoshe had been unavailable to the media. The Al Quds newspaper, published in East Jerusalem, said that he and Mohammed Nazzal, Hamas' representative in Amman, had been put under house arrest at the order of the Jordanian authorities. That too was a lie spread by the PLO, Ghoshe said. "We in Hamas did not want to give Jordan problems, because Jordan was under heavy pressure. Therefore we kept a low profile for a couple of weeks," he said.

But now he is back to talk—and in Amman, in the headquarters of the IAF (Islamic Action Front), the political party set up by the Jordanian Muslim Brothers. The meeting place is a little strange for somebody who expressly denies that Hamas and the IAF have anything to do with one another. "I do not have an office here," Ghoshe said. "I am just a guest here." But anyone who does not find him at home is invariably sent on "to his office": in the IAF.

He states with great firmness that: "We cannot accept any dialogue with Israel for the simple reason that Israel

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

is occupying our land and has driven our people from it." And carries on: "But in certain cases Hamas is prepared to enter into indirect negotiations, like over those Palestinians who are still kept in prison by Israel, and especially the female prisoners. We already proposed in April that civilians on the Palestinian and Israeli sides should be kept out of the spiral of violence. If Rabin promised to kill no more Palestinians and stop destroying their homes, then Hamas would stop its operations against civilians. So far Rabin has not reacted, although it is nevertheless very important for both peoples: for both the Israelis and the Palestinians."

When asked why Hamas, which rejects any right of existence for Israel, within any borders whatsoever, is still willing to do business with the same Israel, Ghoshe said: "During wartime agreements are often made to keep civilians out of the violence. The Koran also says that women and children should be spared. But according to the Koran we are entitled to do the same as the Israelis are doing to us."

"We in Hamas want the violence against civilians to stop. Rabin has the most influence. He has a state behind him, the Israeli state. He can give instructions. No, we do not recognize that state! But it is a state which was proclaimed in 1947 in the UN general assembly's resolution of partition. Therefore if Rabin has a state, and if he also wants to prove that he has everything under control, then let him prove that he can stop these murders of civilians."

In the language of the Muslim Brothers such comments mean that Hamas would possibly be prepared to make a ceasefire with Israel. The Muslim Brothers were prepared to do that in the Gaza Strip too in the past, when they avoided all armed action against Israel and limited themselves exclusively to social, educational, and charity work to win as many souls as possible. Ghoshe said it took "20 years before the youth were prepared to start the rebellion. Before that there was no talk of military operations. Because under Hamas' program that was not permissible, if people were not ready. So no one can say that Hamas was built up by Israel. First we had to lay the foundations before we could move into action, in December 1987 when the intifada started."

[Stein] What is at stake in the conflict between Hamas and Arafat's PLO?

[Ghoshe] For Hamas the intifada is the start of the liberation of Palestine. Let us say, first the occupied territories—Gaza, the West Bank, and East Jerusalem—and afterwards the rest of Palestine. In contrast 'Arafat wanted to improve his own position and up to now has been satisfied with autonomy and the Palestinian National Council. Obviously Hamas cannot accept that. The problem with Al Fatah (the main PLO group set up by 'Arafat) is that it is paying an excessively high price in order to be taken into consideration. The price is too expensive if it is your own flesh, if you have to hand yourself over for it. 'Arafat has killed the dream of four million Palestinians outside Palestine. They can no longer return to Palestine. 'Arafat's biggest mistake was not that he agreed to autonomy, but that by doing so he opened the door to the Arab world for Israel. Normalization with Israel is going very smoothly. It will take time to build opposition to it."

Without being asked he explains why he is so cautious. "Israel is now attacking Hamas and others are doing that too," Ghoshe said. "And the United States supports Israel. 'Arafat is trying to convince the Americans that the Hamas leadership is in Jordan. That is not true. We are in the Occupied Territories. In Jordan we work in accordance with Jordanian legislation and Jordanian democracy. We have Jordanian passports. There is perhaps an alternative: That 'Arafat be replaced by Jordan. But our alternative is an Islamic alternative, based on the struggle against the occupation. In Hamas we say that the Palestinian question is an Islamic-Arab question, not just a Palestinian question. That is where we differ from 'Arafat."

Hence the fact that Hamas still has very good relations with Jordan, even after the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty. "It appears right to me for the king to listen to Hamas' ideas because our starting point is that we are one nation," Ghoshe said. "I personally have worked as an engineer in Jordan. There were no borders in our Arab and Islamic history. They are something new. As Islamic fundamentalists we are Arab Muslims. Al Fatah believes too much in the Palestinian identity. Some of them even want to have more to do with Israel than with the Arabs. They want a union with Israel. 'Arafat is a one-man show—he is the number one enemy of democracy. That is one of his problems with his followers. On the other hand in Hamas you can express your opinion freely."

Another of 'Arafat's "inventions" is that Jordan and Hamas have an agreement over all military operations against Israel, Ghoshe said. "That story comes from a Palestinian source and was sold to the United States and Israel," he said. "But there is no truth in the idea that there is a secret relationship between Jordan and Hamas. But it is true that 'Arafat demanded that we should not undertake any actions against Israel in Gaza. Of course we refused because then we would have accepted the Oslo agreement over autonomy which he made with Israel."

"We have absolutely nothing to do with the military operations of the Ketaeb Izzedine Al-Qassam (Hamas' military arm)," Ghoshe said. "They are an independent military wing and all their actions are planned in the Occupied Territories. I do not know any of them. I and all other Hamas' symbols talk with the media only to give Hamas' political and ideological position."

He returned to relations with Jordan. "I myself am a Jordanian, I have worked here," he said. "There are no differences between us. The king and the Muslim Brothers have worked together for 45 years now. Both

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

parties have been able to avoid confrontation. We will certainly find new common ground again now. And do not forget: Jews are Jews, they do not change. They only want to take and never give. The Jordanians will discover that. Here things will go much worse economically. All those dreams which are now cherished are a long way from reality. In time people will increasingly stand on the side of those who see Islam as the only way. Look at Egypt: After 15 years of peace with Israel, a maximum of 1,000 Egyptians go to Israel every year. It will become clear that the Jordanian people does not accept the peace with Israel either. The Muslim Brothers are against the peace treaty, but not against the king. Nor, as fundamentalists, do we want a conflict with 'Arafat. The king is wise enough and the Muslim Brothers are wise enough. Just as in Palestine we say that we do not want a conflict."

[Stein] Are you not afraid of a conflict between the generations in your movement, like the one already emerging in the Gaza Strip, where the young people of today no longer listen to yesterday's leaders?

[Ghoshe] Those who take Islam as the only guide are able to control themselves better, because of our experiences here in Jordan. There are red lines here which cannot be crossed. I lived through the 1970 civil war myself. For me as a Muslim that was a very bad war. I cannot take part in something like that. Many have learned from it. And here in Jordan people are aware that things must not be allowed to go so far, because then everyone would be the loser. We have also learned from the events in Lebanon. This game must be played well. The people who reject the peace treaty must not cross this red line. And the government must give the people room to express their opinion. That is not a problem for the government, which already controls all the media.

[Stein] Is or is not 'Arafat the joint enemy of Hamas and the king?

[Ghoshe] No, we still think that Israel is our enemy, because it will go through with its plan to economically dominate the Arab world. They no longer have to do that militarily, because they already have the strongest army. They even reach as far as the Gulf area. Their only remaining enemy is Iran.

[Stein] So is Iran your main ally now?

[Ghoshe] In fact all Muslims are our allies. I am not talking about governments, but peoples. It is easy for regimes to sign a peace. But it will take time for normal people. Ultimately they will not accept it and enter into opposition. A war is going on between the zionists and fundamentalists. And it will continue. Perhaps the governments will try to stop it, but there is a strong Muslim feeling in this country. Just look at Hamas. Rabin cannot destroy Hamas. Because then he would have to deal with all the schools, universities, and refugee camps. And he cannot do that, even if he were to send everyone to prison.

[Stein] According to your beliefs, land that once was under Islamic control should never fall in the hands of non-Muslims, because that would be in conflict with God's will. So why do virtually all Muslims accept Spain as a non-Islamic state?

[Ghoshe] Andalus, the present Spain, was indeed under Islamic control once. But time is an important factor. The West Bank and Jerusalem have only been occupied 27 years and the rest of Palestine for only 45 years. You must take account of this time factor. We hope that we will not lose Palestine, like Andalus. As far as Hamas is concerned we will do everything possible to prevent that.

If the Muslims do not revolt then the future will be like in Spain. But there is another lesson from history: We lost Jerusalem in the period of the crusaders for 100 years and the rest of Palestine for 200 years. Can Israel be a part of this region? I cannot answer that. But I do know that nothing can compensate the Palestinian refugees for their lost homes and property in Palestine. And I also know that this is a U.S. peace which will not hold longer then between five and 10 years.

[Stein] If you meet 'Arafat, do you kiss him?

[Ghoshe] Of course. We met last year in Khartoum and Tunisia. You simply cannot avoid 'Arafat's embrace. Of course I kiss him. We have nothing against the man, only against his deeds.

Hamas Leader Call For Agreement With PA

TA2211164794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] 'Imad al-Faluji, one of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leaders in the Gaza Strip, says that although his movement still insists that the Palestinian Authority [PA] accept direct responsibility for the violent incidents in Gaza, it is still interested in reaching an agreement with the PA by Friday [25 November].

Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that a large Hamas rally is slated to take place in al-Shaja'iyah neighborhood in Gaza on Friday, in memory of terrorist 'Imad 'Aql, one of the leaders of Hamas' military arm, who was killed in a clash with the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] a year ago.

Fatah, Hamas Figures Cited on Gaza Clashes

MM2111124494 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 19 Nov 94 p1

[Reports by Muhammad Abu-'Id in Jerusalem, Salwa al-Ustuwani in Damascus, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT bureaus in Cairo, Amman, and Gaza, and agencies: "Gaza Becomes Civil War Arena; Clashes Extend to Police Ranks"]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[FBIS Translated Excerpts] Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO's Political Department, told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday that Israel was pushing the Palestinians towards civil war. [passage omitted]

In the Gaza Strip, the masses spontaneously came out in the streets and thousands attended the funeral of five people killed in al-Shuja'iyah quarter despite the curfew imposed by the Palestinian police.

Clashes broke out between members of the Palestinian police, prompting the Higher Security Authority to order a stop to the use of arms.

Palestinian police sources have confirmed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that some members of the police force did not obey orders and that, as a result, clashes broke out within the ranks of the Palestinian security forces in al-Saraya camp in Gaza city.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Marwan al-Barghuthi, Fatah's West Bank secretary, called for an urgent and immediate dialogue between the fundamentalist forces and the Palestinian Authority and urged condemnation of the use of arms by any side. He also said that those responsible for what happened should be brought to trial.

In another statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Shaykh Ahmad al-Bahr, a Hamas leader in the Gaza Strip, blamed the Palestinian police for the clashes which occurred there.

He said that the Palestinian police started the firing and that the claims that there was a procession were false claims. He said that the regrettable events which occurred were premeditated by the Palestinian police and that Palestinian policemen were deployed on rooftops before the Friday prayers began. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, PLO Executive Committee Member Sulayman al-Najjab has strongly condemned yesterday's clashes in Gaza. He said that "the Palestinian People's Party had previously warned against the danger of internal inter-Palestinian fighting." He added that "Israel had steadily, provocatively pushed inter-Palestinian relations towards what happened in Gaza."

He called for a dialogue between all the Palestinian parties concerned to prevent a repetition of what happened. [passage omitted]

Islamic Jihad Leader on Gaza Events

JN2211155594 Amman AL-BILAD in Arabic 23 Nov 94 p 11

[Interview with Shaykh As'ad Bayyud al-Tamimi, leader of the Islamic Jihad Movement-Bayt al-Maqdis, by unidentified correspondent, in Amman; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [AL-BILAD] There are many questions regarding the killing of Hani al-'Abid [Islamic Jihad activist recently killed in booby-trapped car in Gaza Strip]. Who killed him?

[Al-Tamimi] The battle with Jews will continue as the battles with the crusaders continued until the downfall of their state. [passage omitted] Jews chased the resistance youth all over the world and killed a great number of them. Then they resorted to assassinations in Gaza and elsewhere in Palestine. They have recently assassinated Hani al-'Abid. The arrogance and injustice of the Jews has reached the level of blaming the self-rule administration for the incidents that take place even in the areas controlled by them [Jews], as if the self-rule police are responsible for security in Tel Aviv and the rest of Palestine. The spiteful Jewish mentality has been like this all the time, and will continue to be so until God ordains the downfall of the State of Israel.

[AL-BILAD] But Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] was harassed at al-'Abid's funeral.

[Al-Tamimi] He was harassed because of the agreement [with Israel] and not because of the killing [of Hani al-'Abid].

[AL-BILAD] What about the recent Gaza incidents?

[Al-Tamimi] It seems that Friday's incidents were not spontaneous; they were planned in the Jewish state. After the so-called Higher Court of Justice authorized the demolition of a house in Qalqilyah, a Jewish official said the demolition came as part of a series of measures decided by the Israeli command.

What happened in Gaza is part of the schemes that seek to drag people into fighting each other and forgetting about resisting the Jews so that resistance will become weak and wither, God forbid. Dispute and fighting weakens the nation and destroys it. So, we have to overlook the mistakes of others and the attempts of some to sow sedition and deal with these issues with wisdom and patience.

I phoned brother Yasir 'Arafat the same night and told him: You should rise above the occasion and overlook evil because the question is not one of individual dignity, but rather an issue of a people. I told him that this fighting is not permissible and the notables of Gaza, the West Bank, and Palestinians from the 1948- occupied lands should intervene and spend the night, sleep, in Gaza. Indeed, I made a telephone call with Hebron and was told that a delegation representing the West Bank and 1948 Palestinians will head for Gaza. [passage omitted]

[AL-BILAD] Reports say that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] started provoking the police.

[Al-Tamimi] We are not now investigating who started or who did not start. We are seeking now to handle the serious situation, because investigating who started what will deepen wounds. The time will come when people will know who planned and executed this and who should be held responsible.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[AL-BILAD] Do you think things will stop at this point?

[Al-Tamimi] If we can deal with the situation with wisdom, and if we can heal the wounds and surpass sorrow and troubles, it will be good. Otherwise, the situation will have serious repercussions and the people will destroy themselves by themselves.

[AL-BILAD] Do you think what happened will reflect negatively on the expansion of authority in the rest of the West Bank cities?

[Al-Tamimi] I do not think so, because President Husni Mubarak remarked before the sedition that if funds were not rushed to the Gaza Strip, the Strip would explode and evil will reach out to the states surrounding Palestine and even Europe. Today, the U.S. State Department noted that what happened was the result of not supplying aid to the self-rule areas. Therefore, I believe that the United States might expedite the flow of aid, because it believes that providing aid will make people forget their cause. This is wrong. [passage omitted]

[AL-BILAD] It is said that in Hamas there are two currents, a Palestinian led by Ahmad Yasin, and an Iranian led by Musa Abu-Marzuq. To what extent is this true?

[Al-Tamimi] We are not now in a position to deal with this issue. We now seek to deal with the sedition. This issue should not be discussed.

[AL-BILAD] Some Palestinian circles believe that the Jihad Movement you are leading is outside the arena of Palestinian political action. What do you think of this?

[Al-Tamimi] The Jihad Movement is not confined to persons. Jihad lies in the movement's concepts, in the Koran and the prophet's tradition, and in its enmity of Jews as based on religion. The Jihad Movement has not weakened from within [Palestine]; it has rather taken root and is getting stronger. Jihad is there within the youth, who seek martyrdom. Whether they belong to the Jihad Movement or not, they belong to God. Therefore, the United States and the Jews are hastily seeking to solve the question [of Palestine] before the Islamic movement takes its full dimension and before the regimes in Egypt and Algeria fall, which will inevitably happen.

[AL-BILAD] Some charge that you are 'Arafat's man.

[Al-Tamimi] I have never worked for 'Arafat and I will never do so. I call for engaging Islam in the battle. In the 1960's, late Abu-Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] and Abu-Iyad [Salah Khalaf] came to me in Jerusalem, before it was occupied, and asked me to work with them. I asked them to adopt the Islamic approach, but they refused. So we did not agree.

When the Iranian revolution was staged I was asked to form a jihad movement, and I did. I received aid from 'Arafat and not from foreign sides.

When the Oslo agreement was signed I announced my rejection and withdrew from the PLO and the the Central Council. Aid was then cut off. The Islamic movement benefited from 'Arafat and 'Arafat, of course, benefited from the Islamic movement. I have a different situation from that of other Islamic movements.

[AL-BILAD] One of your statements aroused the Israeli Government to the degree that Sharon asked that you be expelled from Jordan. How do you view Sharon's demand?

[Al-Tamimi] Jordan is an independent state and the Jordanian Constitution prevents expelling a citizen from his country or denaturalizing him. Therefore, Sharon is bound to lose. This is my country, in addition to Palestine, Syria, and Lebanon. Greater Syria forms an economic and geographical unity. It was divided only during the mandate. Nevertheless, the British high commissioner was in charge of both Palestine and Trans-Jordan.

[AL-BILAD] Where would you go if you were forced to leave?

[Al-Tamimi] I will not leave this country.

DFLP Said Planning Political Party in Israel

TA1811115894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 18 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Nayif Hawatimah, head of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], has said that his organization wishes to establish a political party in Israel that would work for the recognition of Palestinians' rights inside the State of Israel. Hawatimah made the remarks in a special interview with the Israeli paper in Arabic KUL AL-'ARAB.

PFLP's Habash Rules Out Agreement With 'Arafat

JN2211202094 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 21-27 Nov 94 pp 20-22

[Interview with George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, by Ghassan Sharbal in Damascus; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Sharbal] Do you fear a civil war may erupt in Gaza, and what will you do if the results of the proposed elections are in favor of the authority's position?

[Habash] We have such fears, particularly since Israel is seriously planning to draw the Palestinian society into such a dirty war. If 'Arafat continues to do what the Israelis want and oppresses the Palestinian forces that reject the Oslo-Cairo agreements and their results, he will consciously or unconsciously draw the Palestinian arena into fighting. We know that this wicked plan seeks to destroy our people and their cause and we are trying

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

our best to avoid it by launching a large-scale campaign to explain the situation and create a strong popular opposition to that policy.

Regarding elections, our position is very clear. We are not against elections as a democratic principle. On the contrary, we strongly support it. But we do not support a distorted democracy. What is the use of elections that do not allow 4 million Palestinians to express their opinion on a fateful cause, and how can these elections be legitimate if they are confined only to part of our people. If 'Arafat and his team are interested in true democracy, they should consider the view of all Palestinian people inside and outside [the occupied territories]. If they do that, we will be the first to respect our people's word and decision.

[Sharbal] Is dialogue with Yasir 'Arafat possible? If yes, on what basis?

[Habash] Both agreement and disagreement have their objective bases and conditions. We have previously agreed with 'Arafat in light of the national program and the National Charter. By signing the Oslo agreement of liquidation, 'Arafat has departed from the national program and replaced it with the Oslo and self-rule program. He is also planning to annul the National Charter. Therefore, we see no points of agreement with him following his deviations. In brief, neither a meeting nor a dialogue with 'Arafat is possible. It is the national program and the National Charter that determine any agreement or disagreement. [passage omitted]

[Sharbal] Where will Dr. Habash and his front's leadership go if peace is achieved on the Syrian-Israeli track, and what is the alternative capital?

[Habash] Why do you assume that as soon as peace is achieved on the Syrian-Israeli track, the Syrian brothers will stand against our liberation struggle. The Syrian brothers know, more than others, the extent of harm done to the Palestinian people's cause and struggle as a result of the Oslo agreement of liquidation. Therefore, they will not act against our legitimate struggle to regain our full rights, particularly since the brothers in Syria refuse to sign any treaty under which parts of their rights and territory will remain under Israel's control.

Here, I would like to draw attention to the fact that since the beginning of the glorious intifadah in the occupied homeland, we have actually begun to move our activity to the occupied homeland, which is the true arena of action and the first conflict with the occupation and its liquidatory plans. We are moving toward this goal and its political and organizational requirements.

In addition, our presence outside [the occupied territories] is not restricted to a certain arena or location. We have a political, organizational, and popular presence in several countries and areas. Finally, we are not rootless people. We have our official Arab relations, particularly with national regimes. We also have alliances with the Arab popular movement and the Arab liberation movement throughout the great Arab homeland. [passage omitted]

[Sharbal] Will Carlos' trial cause personal problems to you and to the front's leaders?

[Habash] I do not believe so. Carlos is an international struggler and he joined the front's ranks out of his revolutionary beliefs. He staged his struggle beside the Palestinian people. We will remember him and all the honorable strugglers for their support. The word terrorist does not frighten us because in this bad time it is used against every struggler and revolutionary who defends his people's dignity and supports right against wrong. This is not strange. Each time has its own criteria, and these wrong criteria belong to the new world order, which describes our national liberation struggle as terrorism, while it keeps silent over Israel's official terrorism against our people, the fraternal Lebanese people, and the region's peoples. Who is the terrorist, then?

PFLP-GC's Jibril on Peace, Syria, Iran

JN1811152994 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 14-20 Nov 94 pp 16-19

[Interview with PFLP-GC Secretary General Ahmad Jibril by Ghassan Sharbal "at his office in Damascus"; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Sharbal] We cannot deny that there are Palestinian-Israeli and Jordanian-Israeli agreements and that the peace process is advancing. What are you going to do?

[Jibril] Our generation and the PFLP-GC [Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command], as the vanguards who have been shouldering the responsibility of carrying the flag for the past 35 years, are pained because there are attempts to impose solutions on us and because some official solutions have been imposed while the nation is offering great sacrifices. Our people have not lost patience, as some people try to imply, but they have their ups and downs.

I, for example, would like to note the operation in Jerusalem in which an Egyptian from the al-Jawhari family took an official permit from the Israeli Embassy in Cairo to participate, with his brother, in a heroic operation in the streets of West Jerusalem. The Palestinian people have been waging the intifadah for eight years now. The entire people are taking part in this intifadah, something that has never happened in the history of nations. The partisans waged the war in Vietnam, and in Algeria the people supported the liberation army. In Palestine, however, the situation is more progressive, because all the people are taking part in the intifadah.

What pains us is the fact that the plot is being concocted while the nation is trying to emerge from the bottle. They want to prevent the giant from emerging from the bottle.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

They are propagating only one side of the picture. Can we forget the popular rejection in Egypt following Camp David? Even Israel itself admitted that peace [with Egypt] is cold.

[Sharbal] However, it has been reported that peace on the Jordanian front is warm.

[Jibril] I would like to say that it will be colder than it is on the Egyptian front. Although the nation is fighting without allies and without the existence of a superpower to support it, there is an awakening process in this nation. This nation has absorbed its pains; large popular movements have begun to emerge in it. The evidence for this is what happened in Jordan after the signing of the peace treaty—in the mosques and the streets—and the authorities retaliation. The pan-Arab, progressive, leftist, and Islamic forces converged in one stand and issued statements in which they attacked the agreement and affirmed that it is not binding.

Our Palestinian people did the same thing with Yasir 'Arafat. Our people said the agreement between 'Arafat and Rabin does not represent the Palestinian people. The evidence is the continuation of the intifadah and the operations. 'Arafat cannot suppress the Palestinian people. If the situation deteriorates in Gaza our people can throw 'Arafat into the sea in one demonstration, something which might take place soon. [passage omitted]

[Sharbal] Do you expect the assassination of Yasir 'Arafat?

[Jibril] The democratically-elected Knesset has almost unanimously supported the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty. Has such a consensus been achieved on the Palestinian scene? 'Arafat has brought 15,000 policemen with him so that, using the big stick, he can succeed the Israelis in repressing the people. Do you believe the people who are swimming against the current will be forgiven by the people, or that their acts will be condoned? Can anybody believe the fraternal Arab Egyptian people, who gave birth to Khalid al-Islambuli [Anwar al-Sadat's assassin] and the forces opposed to normalization, are any different from the Palestinian people? I believe the revolutionary and jihad sentiments are growing around us in the East faster than they are growing in Egypt.

[Sharbal] Do you mean you are predicting the emergence of many people who are willing to walk in the footsteps of al-Islambuli?

[Jibril] Of course I do. I switch the radio on every morning to hear the news of the new Islambuli. I have not recruited a new Islambuli. But, I am awaiting to hear news about him. Believe me, I switch the radio on every day to hear of the news of the new Islambuli.

[Sharbal] It was reported that you threatened to assassinate 'Arafat.

[Jibril] I have said, and still believe, that 'Arafat and his team are working against the wishes of our people. They are concluding deals they are not entitled to conclude. Has the Palestine National Council endorsed the Oslo and Cairo accords? Have the Palestinian people, who have been making sacrifices since the issuance of the Balfour Declaration, been consulted about these accords? Will the Palestinian people allow 'Arafat to strike a deal with the Israeli enemy, the only result of which is his becoming chief of a police force, a police station, in Gaza? Has 'Arafat managed to recover the West Bank? Has he dismantled the settlements, recaptured Jerusalem, and resolved the displaced persons' problem? What about the right of 4 million Palestinians to repatriation? What can he say about the fate of 9,000 Palestinian prisoners held in enemy jails?

[Sharbal] When did you last meet 'Arafat?

[Jibril] In 1983, when I was attending a PNC session in Algiers. During that meeting, I was frank with him. I addressed him, saying: This meeting will be the last, because you are walking the path that will lead you to sell out Palestine. We will not allow you to do so. If you persist with your current policy, that will be the end for you and us. We have condoned your previous mistakes, as well as the internal destruction you have been causing. But enough is enough. From now on, we cannot sit under the same roof. [passage omitted]

[Sharbal] If Syria signs a peace agreement with Israel, where will Ahmad Jibril live, and what will he do?

[Jibril] I do not want to defend Syria or President Hafiz al-Asad, but to be fair, and in spite of what Clinton and the Israelis propagate about their optimism, I do not think the Syrian leadership will sign an agreement with the Israelis like the agreements signed with King Husayn, Yasir 'Arafat, or that signed in Camp David. [passage omitted]

I will be astonished if—God forbid—the Israeli flag is hoisted in the Damascus sky. With due respect to all analyses, I think the Syrian leadership will not sign an agreement with the Israelis like those signed in the past. An agreement ending the state of war may be signed and a sort of a truce may be reached, and then I and other strugglers will say we will continue to struggle as long as we are alive. The circumstances will be there for us to continue the struggle through various and different means. Ordinary peaceful relations may mean not to fight, as the case when someone occupies a floor in a building, and the circumstances around you require you not to confront him. Refraining from confrontation does not mean accepting the right of that person to be in the place he occupied. What the Syrian leadership says has more than one interpretation, and this is what the Israelis say. Personally, I think the Syrian leadership will eventuall prefer the fighting or war option—whatever the circumstances may be—rather than accepting the U.S.-Israeli peace.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[Sharbal] You have close ties with Iran, which stands accused of terrorism, as does your organization. Is it possible that Tehran will be your next headquarters?

[Jibril] We hold the Islamic Republic of Iran in high regard, seeing that, although a non-Arab state, it is taking a position supportive of the Palestinian cause, in contrast to certain fellow Arabs who have abandoned the struggle. We admire the principled Khomeyni revolution. Khomeyni's assertion that Israel is a cancerous growth that must be removed still stands. Khomeyni is gone and yet Rafsanjani and Khamene'i are just as committed as he was to that stance.

Nothing proves Iran is a terrorist state. Right from its first days, the Islamic revolution was dubbed a sponsor of terrorism. I am not going to list the acts of terror committed against Iran. It is natural that Iran should act in legitimate self-defense.

As for us, if I were to declare that I was prepared to sell out Palestine the way 'Arafat did, all charges against me would be dropped. If I am accused of being a terrorist, then why did Rabin and Peres extend an invitation to me to go to Gaza when the proposal for convening a Palestine National council session in Gaza came up? In other words, if I agreed to scrap the Palestinian National Charter, I would cease to be a terrorist. If, on the other hand, I said I was born in Palestine, from where I emigrated at age 10, and that I insisted on returning, I would be considered guilty of terrorist activities.

The Clinton administration views the killing of heavily armed Israeli soldiers who occupy our country as a barabaric act. Just imagine Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, being branded with terrorism for holding an armed Israeli corporal and demanding that he be swapped for Palestinian detainees. On the other hand, the Israelis cross into Lebanon, abduct Shaykhs 'Ubayd and al-Dirani and murder Musawi, the secretary general of Lebanon's Hizballah, and his wife and daughter, and the Centeral Intelligence Agency plants an explosive charge in the al-'Abd Well that kills or wounds hundreds with the object of assassinating Muhammd Husayn Fadlallah, and yet these are called justified acts. In contrast, in their eyes, the killing or holding of an Israeli soldier in Lebanon, is an act of terror. We do not care about this language any more. We are honored by this charge, as are all the faithful and revolutionaries. We even say that those who do not stand accused of this charge are not patriotic.

[Sharbal] How much does Iran pay the PFLP-GC?

[Jibril] Many media organs speak of Iran giving out billions to us, Hamas, and the Islamic Jihad. We receive very limited and only material aid from Iran. For example, you have the Palestine Martyrs Society that extends some help to martyrs' families. Even this support stopped months ago on account of the country's dire straits. Our ties with Iran have nothing to do with what money it offers. It is a question of Iran's policies.

[Sharbal] Would you comment on field coordination between you and Hizballah, under Iran's sponsorship?

[Jibril] We and the brothers in Hizballah fight side by side; only 24 hours ago we were in action together in the south. Our alliance is open to all mujahidin and strugglers. We have always stood for increased coordination between pro-resistance Lebanese and Palestinians.

[Sharbal] The PFLP-GC name crops up every now and then in connection with the Lockerbie affair or the Berlin nightclub bombing.

[Jibril] This is a charge levelled by the United States to intimidate the world. We are not ones to be intimidated. Those who are intimidated are the ones who love life and fear losing something. We are potential martyrs who seek death. I myself pray to God that I die as a martyr in battle. Thinking to myself, I sometimes wonder why God has denied me the honor of dying in his cause. All this American and Western might will not scare us in the least. As you see, we move about unaccompanied by any guards. They want to besiege us or pressure others to besiege us and restrict our movement. One can always adapt to changing circumstances. We have repeatedly stated that we had nothing to do with Lockerbie or the Berlin bombing, and have challenged them to produce a single piece of evidence to the contrary.

[Sharbal] Were you subjected to any assassination attempts during the time that followed your departure from Beirut?

[Jibril] I do not want to discuss an issue that may be viewed as personal propaganda. I, however, say that the Israeli and U.S. attempts are unlimited. They always target strugglers who adopt this line. All these attempts failed, praise be to God. We kept them secret.

I will not go into details. However, dozens of attempts failed, not because of huge security services—which we do not have—or because international circles cautioned us—which did not happen—but because we were saved by the will of God the almighty and by some of our own measures.

[Sharbal] Can you give us an example of U.S. participation in, or preparation for, an assassination attempt?

[Jibril] What more do you want, other than the fact that a U.S. defense attache and his assistant were caught red-handed near one of our positions? The Americans know this, in addition to recruiting agents, air raids, and letter bombs. Some of our comrades were injured; you can meet them.

[Sharbal] Did you meet Carlos?

[Jibril] I did not know him, in the first place. One day, someone came and told me he wanted to meet with me. This took place about seven years ago. Carlos came and met with me for two hours. The meeting was a kind of a get-acquainted visit. However, the platform of Carlos was different from our platform.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

I am not criticizing the platform of some revolutionaries who wage battles in their own way. I held some meetings with Sabri al-Banna, Abu-Nidal [Fatah Revolutionary Council leader]. I told him: You are confronting the enemies in your own way, but we have different ways. We confront our enemies clearly and in real battles. The Israelis have known this fact since the Dishum [name as transliterated] battle in southern Lebanon in 1965. Our first martyr was Khalid al-Amin.

[Sharbal] When was your last meeting with Abu-Nidal?

[Jibril] Approximately 10 years ago.

[Sharbal] Has any new meeting been held?

[Jibril] No.

[Sharbal] Has any specific circle demanded that you leave Syria?

[Jibril] No, not as far as I know.

[Sharbal] Was there any joint action with Carlos?

[Jibril] As I said, I had a superficial acquaintance with Carlos. No coordination with Carlos took place. I said our platform is different from the platform and style of Carlos.

[Sharbal] Did the way Carlos was extradited and arrested by the security organs evoke the fears of the Palestinian leaders that they can be extradited by a certain country?

[Jibril] In principle, we expressed our annoyance at Khartoum and at this conduct, despite the fact that they tried to justify their action. They sent a large delegation which I met. They also explained this issue. We told them: We understand your position but we do not agree with it. Their justifications were that Carlos was staying in Khartoum and that the Egyptian and Jordanian intelligence organs knew about him and tried to make problems for the Sudanese authorities in order to brand them with terrorism.

These authorities said they asked Carlos to leave, especially because there was no cooperation with him and Carlos did not render any services to them. Carlos stayed for a year. The Sudanese authorities frequently asked him to leave. They finally warned him of extradition, but apparently he did not believe it.

All these were mere justifications. Regarding whether the precedent of extraditing Carlos was significant to us or to some other strugglers, I can say that my school of struggle is different from the school of Carlos. This is known by colonialism, the Americans, and the Israelis. The Israelis were the ones who pursued terrorism against us, and thus they should be tried.

[Sharbal] How did you survive the hijacking of a Libyan plane to Israel?

[Jibril] The Israelis thought that I was aboard the plane that was also carrying 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, Riyad Ra'd, and 'Umar Harb. I was supposed to be on that plane. But at the last hour, something inside me told me not to travel. I don't know why. They hijacked the plane. Sharon brought his son to the airport and told him: I will show you how we hunted Ahmad Jibril. They then asked the passengers: Where is Ahmad Jibril? This is the extreme form of terrorism.

I was a target because I used to travel aboard this private Libyan plane when I went to and from Tripoli. As a matter of fact, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi asked me in front of a group of people: Are you leaving? I said yes. When I returned to the hotel, I realized I had made a mistake to say in front of a group of people that I was leaving, because there could have been some reporters there. 'Abdallah al-Ahmar asked me: Are you coming with us? I told him: You go to the airport, and I will catch up with you after I call on the colonel. When they reached the airport, I told them that I would not go with them, so they left. I went to see the colonel and while we were inside a tent, a piece of paper was given to the colonel telling him that the plane had been hijacked. The hijacking was in retaliation against the Galilee operation we had carried out.

[Sharbal] How many qualitative operations has the PFLP-GC carried out?

[Jibril] The al-Khalisah was the first martyrdom operation. This operation is a school in itself. You know that we are peoples that have a spiritual and Islamic background. It is not easy to give a combat order to a youth and tell him: When you use all your ammunition, blow up yourself. This contradicts some principles. The al-Khalisah operation was a dividing line. No such operation had been carried out before in the confrontation of colonialism. The operation was carried out by three young men: An Iraqi, a Syrian, and a Palestinian. It is the same school that later graduated Sana' Muhaydili and others, the martyr al-Jawhari, and the recent Jerusalem martyr. After al-Khalisah, a delegation from Japanese universities met me and asked me about the reasons for this operation.

[Sharbal] Have you been recently to Khartoum?

[Jibril] I have never been to Khartoum in my life.

[Sharbal] Never?

[Jibril] Never. Our relations with them are based on mutual respect.

[Sharbal] So you don't know Dr. Hasan al-Turabi?

[Jibril] Only through correspondence.

[Sharbal] Did you have a hand in the blowing up of the Marines headquarters in Beirut?

[Jibril] No, but those who carried out the operation came from the school that started 20 years ago with the al-Khalisah operation. We do not deny our alliance with

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Hamas, Hizballah, and the Islamic Jihad, and coordination and training among these parties. I do not want to reveal some things between Hamas and us on the field inside the occupied territories. There are also the glider operations. Do you think that the person who flies a glider believes he will come back?

[Sharbal] Where did those gliders take off?

[Jibril] From southern Lebanon and from a distance of 50 km. Two gliders carried out the operation and there were two others for communication. The takeoff was from northern al-'Urqub.

[Sharbal] Do you expect upheavals as a result of the peace agreements and the opposition to these agreements?

[Jibril] I maintain that these things are only the beginning. Al-Sadat was killed two years after he signed. Things will now develop at a quicker pace.

[Sharbal] Do you mean that we will see a Palestinian Islambuli soon?

[Jibril] Yes, a Palestinian Islambuli. I am not dreaming. I am dead serious. What we have witnessed so far testifies to this. They are destroying the security of the Arab nation. What have the Israelis done through the two agreements with 'Arafat and King Husayn? They have set the stage for inter-Palestinian fighting by pulling the leg of one faction of them and making it sign in the name of the Palestinians, despite the fact that those who have signed do not represent the will of the Palestinians inside and outside the territories.

[Sharbal] Is there fear of civil war?

[Jibril] It may break out any minute if 'Arafat and those with him do not handle matters wisely. We know that they are policemen and that he is the chief of a police station, but I tell 'Arafat: Don't be a bad police chief, if you don't want to be ripped into pieces. Think about how you were brought in to ignite Palestinian civil war. 'Arafat was brought in to threaten King Husayn.

Shots Fired at IDF; Device Explodes in Gaza

TA2211071694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] There were two attempted terror attacks in the Gaza Strip this morning. Nobody was hurt. Our correspondent Nisim Qeynan reports that an explosive charge went off near the settlement of Morag and that a round of bullets was fired at an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] lookout post near Netzer Hazani. To repeat, there were no casualties.

Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the IDF has reinforced the outposts at the Netzarim junction and that the soldiers were issued all the equipment they were missing, such as jeeps outfitted with special protection, appropriate ammunition, and lighting gear.

Our correspondent Nisim Qeynan reported from the Netzarim junction that very high alertness prevails in the outpost and that soldiers opened fire about 30 minutes ago, when a car from Gaza tried to drive on the road, which is still closed to the passage of Palestinian vehicles. Nobody was hurt by the fire.

'Foreign Forces' Told To Stop Fueling Gaza Strife

MM2211150994 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 21 Nov 94 p9

[Article by Mahmud 'Atallah: "Hands Off Gaza and Its People"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The foreign forces which, like the Israelis, conspire to foment sedition in Palestinian ranks should keep their hands off Palestinian differences and let them, and only them, settle their differences through peaceful dialogue.

The voices raised throughout the world after the outbreak of bloody inter-Palestinian clashes have been in two categories, one urging self-restraint, renunciation of violence, and settlement of differences through dialogue, and the other pressing for more violence, disorder, and action to bring down the Palestinian Authority [PA].

The first category constitutes the majority which aspires to peace and stability and sees autonomy as a step toward a Palestinian state. The second category, the minority, is opposed to the peace process and is doing its best to cause trouble in order to foil the PA's efforts to rebuild the autonomy areas.

The disagreement over the way of settling the Palestinian question and establishing peace may be justified on the grounds that freedom of opinion and of criticism is guaranteed so long as dialogue is the medium used for this. It would be unjustifiable to allow that disagreement to become a way of destroying a new achievement which is still in its early stages, no matter how much objection there is to it.

Since the beginning of the implementation of the Oslo agreement the autonomy has been in a phase of trial and error. In such a phase there is supposed to be a pooling of efforts and an intensification of dialogue to correct mistakes if they are made and to ensure the success of the experiment and to steer it toward the fulfillment of the greater objective of ending the occupation and laying the foundations of a state.

Unfortunately, the first gap to appear has been exploited by fueling emotions and fomenting sedition in Palestinian ranks. A bloody confrontation has ensued, resulting in victims who would have preferably been martyred in a battle with the enemy not in a mutiny against the regime and not in an attempt to destroy the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

stability everyone dreams about, stability that would enable the Palestinians to turn to reconstruction.

Surely the oppositionists who tried to demonstrate outside the Palestine mosque in Gaza did not want a return to the Israeli occupation of the Gaza Strip under which they had long suffered, but their actions against the regime and their attempts to use violence to express opposition have in fact played into the hands of the occupation forces and fulfilled their objective of portraying the Palestinians as having failed in ruling themselves and using that as a pretext for staying, interfering, and imposing their will.

This means that some foreign forces are, like the Israelis, conspiring to intensify differences between the Palestinians and to sow sedition among them to pave the way for a civil war that would destroy all efforts to establish stability and peace.

For the sake of Palestine and the chaste blood spilled throughout the long years of struggle for liberation, these foreign forces should keep their hands off the Palestinian differences and leave the Palestinians alone to settle their differences through peaceful dialogue not through violence, murder, and destruction.

Police Recruitment Seen as 'Arafat Anti-Hamas Move

MM1811163594 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 18 Nov 94 p4

[Report by 'Ali al-Salih: "Hamas Considers Any of Its Members Who Joins the Palestinian Police To Be in Breach of Its Principles"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London—Hamas Official Spokesman in Jordan Ibrahim Ghawshah has declared that any Hamas member who joins the Palestinian police, including the vice squad, which he described as the "suspect group," would be considered to have violated the movement's principles, and that the movement would announce its position after examining each case separately.

Ghawshah was commenting to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT on claims by Hamas sources in Gaza yesterday that about 90 Hamas supporters have signed contracts to join the Palestinian police—the vice police section in the autonomy areas. This is the first time that supporters of Hamas, the PLO's main rival in the Gaza Strip, have accepted positions with the Palestinian security forces created under the PLO-Israeli peace agreement.

A Hamas leader in the strip who wished to remain anonymous said that "anyone joining that unit would be doing so on his own responsibility without the movement's authorization and would not be representing the movement."

Ghazi Jabali, a senior Palestinian police officer, has stated that the Hamas supporters would be welcome if they passed the tests for joining the police force. He added: "We have no information on the matter, but if they have indeed joined they would be welcome by our people."

Ghawshah said that these reports were part of the attempts that (Palestinian President) Yasir 'Arafat and his supporters and instruments have been making for a long time to attract, contain, and absorb some individuals on the peripheries of Hamas.

Ghawshah added that "these reports and information did not surprise Hamas, which has been watching the situation for a long time as 'Arafat spared no effort to attract some leading members of the movement ever since the Palestinian Authority was formed, such as Sa'id Bilal for instance. He tried to send some emissaries in an attempt to absorb the movement or threaten to divide it if it continued to insist on its strategy. So, the formation of the so-called police vice squad is a part of all that."

Ghawshah reaffirmed that "Hamas is a Palestinian Islamic movement with clear objectives, which are to liberate Palestine and establish Islamic rule there." He added: "The recent attempts to dwarf the objectives and buy some weak souls and try to bring them together in the so-called vice squad for fighting vice and other such things are nothing but an exposed attempt that runs contrary to true understanding of the Islamic rules, because fighting vice comes through an Islamic state."

He continued: " 'Arafat is trying to set up this group to undermine Hamas' Islamic objectives. Through this exposed prevarication, which is bound to fail, he is trying to influence our Palestinian masses by giving a gloomy and negative picture to put the masses off the idea of Islamic rule in the future."

PA Breaks Off Water Deal With French Company

LD2211161994 Paris France-Inter Radio Network in French 1300 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian Authority [PA] is breaking off contact with the Lyonnaise des Eaux-Dumez [water company]. The French company had signed a 30-million francs contract concerning water purification in Gaza. The reasons for the move are the remarks made by the chairman of the Lyonnaise [des Eaux-Dumez] concerning Yasir 'Arafat. During a recent lunch with the press Jerome Monod is reported to have described his meeting with Yasir 'Arafat in these words: To obtain 'Arafat's agreement on water purification in the Gaza Strip I had to wait 15 hours, before being driven at 150 km per hour through the streets of Tunis to meet a sick man under the influence of drugs who hugged me and kissed me on the mouth.

Gaza Living Standards Fall by Half in 14 Months

NC2111213394 Paris AFP in English 2104 GMT 21 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jerusalem, Nov 21 (AFP)—Palestinians in the Gaza Strip have seen their living

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

standards fall by half in the 14 months since the PLO signed its historic declaration with Israel, a UN official said Monday [21 November].

"The situation has never been so serious," said Terry Larsen, UN special coordinator in the occupied territories.

He said "the Palestinian population has seen their standard of living drop by half since the Oslo accords," the Declaration of Principles on limited Palestinian autonomy and recognition of Israel signed in Washington in September 1993.

The accord, signed in Washington in September 1993, paved the way for the launch of Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and West Bank in May.

But Palestinians were "losing hope, that is why violence broke out and blood ran," Larsen added, referring to Friday's clashes in Gaza which claimed a 16th life Monday with the death of one of the 200 wounded.

"I have never been so pessimistic," he added, launching an urgent appeal for countries to contribute 2.4 billion dollars over the next five years to the self-rule Palestinian Authority.

Only 100 million dollars has so far been paid to the authority to back self-rule out of the 700 promised for 1994, according to Palestinian officials.

The donor countries are due to meet in Brussels at the end of the month and have said they have delayed payments because they were concerned at the insufficient "transparency" of the Palestinian accounts.

Company Threatens To Stop Jericho Radio Transmission

JN2111150294 Paris AL-MUHARRIR in Arabic 21 Nov 94 p 5

[Report by Basil Yasin in Jericho]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israeli Telecommunications Company, Bezek, has threatened to stop the transmission of the Palestinian radio "Voice of Palestine," which broadcasts from the self-rule areas, less than one year after its inauguration. Bezek is citing the radio's failure to settle its bill as the reason for this action. The Israeli company controls the radio's transmission, whose programs are subjected to 'Arafatist and Israeli censorship.

Israeli press sources said Bezek has for some time now been trying to collect its dues, estimated at hundreds of thousands of shekels (a U.S. dollar equals three shekels) in return for continuing to operate the radio, but in vain.

It should be mentioned here that this radio, like other Palestinian corporations that emerged after the conclusion of the self-rule agreement, is in severe financial straits. Its employees have thus far not received any wages, except for two advance payments, and no functional or financial cadres have been designated at the station.

Radio sources informed AL-MUHARIR of a heated conflict over administrative posts and the radio's lack of independence. 'Arafat is being criticized for his interference in all the station's affairs, no matter how big or small, and for banning the station from broadcasting any reports on Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activities.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Algeria

Opposition Organizations Hold Meeting in Rome

Government, Other Groups Boycott Talks

LD1911213294 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 19 Nov 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Catholic Community, Sant' Egidio, has invited the majority of the political parties, as well as the Algerian Government, to attend a meeting that will discuss current affairs in Algeria. While the list of those who will be attending the meeting has not been revealed yet, National Liberation Front [FLN] Secretary General Abdelhamid Mahri is currently in Rome to take part in the meeting. The Rally for Culture and Democracy has shown its intention to boycott the meeting. Ettahadi Movement also refused sitting down to the same table with the fundamentalists.

By announcing its nonparticipation in the meeting, the Algerian Government reiterates its stance that Algerian problems can only be resolved inside Algeria. Furthermore, regardless of what is behind this meeting, conditions are provided inside the homeland so that all political parties are enabled to meet and consult in complete freedom on the ways and means to pull through the crisis.

What are the real aims of this meeting if they are not an attempt to interfere in Algeria's internal affairs? The atmosphere for meeting and holding dialogue is available in Algeria. This has been manifested in parties' meetings with the authorities in several rounds of multilateral and bilateral dialogue talks. The door is still open to Algerians to hold dialogue inside their homeland.

Such attempts remind us of other attempts carried out by the same community in other similar crises in third world countries and show that their real aim is to patronize and practice foreign interference, which the Algerian people have been rejecting throughout their history. The Algerian people do no need any opinion or patronizing whatever their form or sources are.

At the time, the Algerian people were given the opportunity and the sovereignty to choose its representative in the head of state's speech. Some political parties are trying to practice this sovereignty over the people without permission.

Reactions to Rome Meeting

LD2111223994 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 21 Nov 94

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Translated Text] A number of Algerian political figures preferred the atmosphere in Rome to talk about the national crisis. So, today they met face to face and at one table with those who issued the orders to kill and burn in Algeria. Political figures preferred the atmosphere of vacation in the Italian capital and responded to the invitation of Sant' Egidio Community.

The meeting was proceeded by maneuvers of some parties over their stance towards the participation. Ennahda Movement signed a statement in which it recalled its commitment not to internationalize the Algerian crisis. But Djaballah [Ennahda leader] hastened to take a seat at the meeting.

The press is talking about a definite absence of [Hocine] Ait Ahmed but the leader of the FFS [Socialist Forces Front] singlehandedly participated. Here questions are raised about single stances taken by leaders of parties, which the grassroots of those parties might not even approve, particularly many reactions condemned the organization of a meeting that might open the door for internationalizing the Algerian crisis.

At a news conference held by the Algerian ambassador to Italy in Rome, the ambassador stressed that Algeria has never asked for an international mediation for a problem existing between Algerians that could be resolved among them and on their soil.

The Algerian community in Rome noted with great caution the invitation addressed by the Catholic Sant' Egidio and categorically rejected any explicit or implicit attempt to internationalize the Algerian issue whether the solution comes from Rome or from others, because Algeria has room for all Algerians with their various affiliations. The statement warned that behind the meeting stand those who ruled and failed in the past and now they want to come back to power from across the sea.

The Algerian Movement for Justice and Development was surprised for the suspicious invitation of the Catholic Church and strongly condemned this blatant interference in Algeria's domestic affairs. The Algerian Movement for Justice and Development expressed indignation for the fact that parties which claim patriotism and effectiveness have been dragged after these conspiracies, which are led by the Church regardless of the excuses. The statement added that Rome meeting is a serious encroachment on the freedom of the political decision and that it is a treachery in practice. In its statement, the movement rejected the Algerian crisis be displayed in a public auction in front of the Algerian people who have decided anew on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of November Revolution to contain the problem as they did in the recent past. The Algerian Liberal Party expressed surprise for this interference and compared it with 18th Centry [as heard]. In its statement it wondered about the objective incentives of Algerian political formations to solve a national problem between the Muslims in Rome. In conclusion, the Liberal party referred to the collusion of parties against Algeria and for keeping silent over terrorism it did not condemn openly.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Opposition Officials Comment

LD2111212094 Paris France-2 Television Network in French 1900 GMT 21 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] While Algeria continues to plunge further into violence—a seven-year-old child has had his throat cut at his parents' home—the representatives of the main opposition parties and movements are currently meeting in Rome on the occasion of a colloquium. This meeting has been greatly criticized by the Algerian Government, and a FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] leader in exile announced today that his movement was ready for dialogue. We have a report from our permanent correspondent, Alain de Chalvron:

[Begin recording] [Chalvron] [passage omitted] Veteran Algerian leaders like Ahmed Ben Bella and Hocine Ait Ahmed are here, along with the FLN [National Liberation Front] secretary general, and the FIS officials in exile. It is a meeting to achieve a preliminary dialogue, but not a miracle:

[FLN Secretary General Abdelhamid Mehri] The colloquium, as its name indicates, is not intended to resolve the crisis. It is intended to permit an exchange of points of view, and to inform public opinion.

[FIS representative Anouar Haddam] It is a good opportunity for us to try to find common ground among the different Algerian political parties, and this will thus thwart those who are attempting to divide the Algerian opposition to attempt to justify maintaining the current government in power by means of terror.

[Chalvron] The problem is that the current Algerian Government is not represented here. Not only is it not here, but at the same time, although from the other side of the Tiber, it has expressed its anger via its ambassador. [passage omitted]

[Former Algerian President Ahmed Ben Bella] If the government is not there it is a disaster, because without the government, if the regime is not present, then it is true that the dialogue is still deadlocked.

[Chalvron] Although, to have succeeded in bringing together here in the same room the FIS and the FLN, laymen and Islamists, is already a result. [end recording]

FLN Committee Condemns Meeting

LD2211213294 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Rome seminar is still making the headlines at home and abroad. The provisional preparatory committee of the emergency congress of the FLN [National Liberation Front] has strongly condemned the Rome meeting on Algeria. The provisional committee described the meeting as a farce and a treason which would open the door to foreign interference into the domestic affairs of the country.

The provisional committee added that this political and media provocation which is supported and inspired by the servants of the new geo-political and fundamentalist order of which [FLN Secretary General] Abdelhamid Mehri is a member, is a direct attack against national sovereignty and the dignity of Algeria.

As for the National Association of Those Condemned to Death, it has strongly condemned the Rome treason committed by vultures who would like to be rehabilitated with the complicity of the international fundamentalist movement at the expense of Algeria and its martyrs.

We remind Mr. Mehri and his colleagues, added the National Association of Those Condemned to Death, that the Algerian people does not wish to receive lessons from anybody. Nobody can or has the right to dictate a path for it to take. This path had already been shown by the glorious revolution of national liberation. The Algerian people will remember this treason forever, concluded the association. The Algerian people will remember that this treason was committed by those who did not hesitate to undermine the honor and memory of November, 1954.

Parties Agree To Continue Dialogue

LD2211212994 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] At the end of their meeting in Rome today, representatives of a number of Algerian political parties and alliances agreed to continue a dialogue with a view to reaching a peaceful solution to the crisis in their country. Our correspondent in Rome Rif'at al-Najjar reports:

[Al-Najjar] Representatives of the conflicting forces in Algeria attended the meeting, but representatives of the Algerian Government did not attend.

Italy, through a charitable organization well known for taking initiatives to bring about reconciliation and peace in conflicts, invited representatives of the conflicting forces in Algeria to meet here in Rome. [passage omitted]

We interviewed Ahmed Ben Bella, the great struggler and former president of Algeria.

[Begin Ben Bella recording] Quite frankly, the result as I see it...[pauses] The meeting was a success, because for the first time all the active forces in Algeria, including the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] attended, and they expressed their views, on the main points of which we agree—in particular on democracy, pluralism, and respect for human rights.

For the first time FIS officials state their views—which meet ours—about these main points, which are the focus of the dialogue. I hope that this will be a good omen and will pave the way to a wider and more important meeting of all the Algerian active forces in Algeria, including the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

government; representatives of the government, until we reach a very important decision on calming the situation. [end recording]

[Al-Najjar] Now we speak to...

[Nahnah, interrupting] Your brother Mahfud Nahnah from Algeria, representative of the Muslim Society Movement, Hamas of Algeria.

[Al-Najjar] What results have you reached at this meeting, which is perhaps the first of its kind?

[Nahnah] After thanking God, our thanks to Kuwait television. This good initiative is a meeting of some Algerians outside Algerian territory. They are trying to find a way out of the blind disorder that has befallen the Algerians. The other issue is an attempt to find a platform for consensus among the opposition parties. However, we oppose the consensus platform laid down in our absence by the government. The reason for that concerns the term of negotiations among Algerians. We categorically reject negotiations among Algerians. We accept and call for dialogue among Algerians.

[Al-Najjar] The Algerian Government did not attend the meeting. Does that affect the result and the meeting?

[Nahnah] The importance of the meeting does not lie in attendance by everyone but it lies in attendance by some. Dialogue develops like a snowball as time passes. This would be the case in the presence of the government or other political parties that are absent or were forced to be absent.

[Al-Najjar] Cheikh Abdallah Djaballah, leader of the Algerian Islamic Ennahda Movement is here to tell us about the final draft statement of the meeting.

[Djaballah] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The draft statement was read out but it has not been discussed yet. We have some reservations about it. We have spoken to the organizers of the meeting and called for a debate on the draft before it is signed and adopted.

[Al-Najjar] Among those present is Nourreddine Boukrouh, the leader of the Party of Algerian Renewal. In your statement you said there was hope that 1994 would witness the end of the bloody conflict in Algeria, and 1995 would be the year of reconciliation.

[Boukrouh] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Yes, we believe that there is still hope in Algeria. We also believe that it would be possible to make 1995 a year for resolving the Algerian crisis. There will be elections in 1995, and that would be an opportunity for the Algerian people to make a judgment regarding the crisis.

Meeting Ends

LD2211203894 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Rome meeting on Algeria has ended: 16 officials of Algerian parties and organizations met for the first time in talks lasting two days. This meeting, we should remember, was strongly criticized by the Algerian Government. Marie-Delphine Bonada, in Rome, takes stock of the meeting:

[Bonada] It is just a start, let us continue with the dialogue: This is, in brief, the conclusion of the Rome meeting of the leaders of Algerian opposition movements at the end of two days of debate, and if the result was to be nothing more than this, then it is already a first step, in the view of the Sant' Egidio Community, which took this initiative.

The final document states, observes, and expresses the wish, in 10 points, that this first step should be followed up by a series of talks which would be useful in helping to overcome the deadlock and opening up real negotiations. On the other hand, the real content of the colloquium—such as the condemnation of violence and the establishment of a joint political platform, which had been discussed the previous day—is not mentioned in the final document. [passage omitted]

Security Forces Kill 4 'Terrorists,' Seize Arms

LD2211203494 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A statement issued by security services today said that security forces killed four terrorists between Sunday and Tuesday last, destroyed three hideouts in Algiers, Setif, Jijel, Medea, and Khlef, and recovered a number of automatic guns and hunting rifles.

Another statement issued by security services said that an 80-strong [Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic at 0600 GMT on 23 November states "eight-strong"] terrorist network was dismantled in Ghlizane following a tipoff from the terrorist (Fadhli El Hadj), alias Abi Abbes, who committed the assassination of the police governor last July.

Among the members of this terrorist group is a woman and a doctor who used to treat the armed group's wounded who were arrested, according to the same source.

Egypt

Musa on Syrian Track, Iraqi, Sudanese Issues

JN2111170794 Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic 18 Nov 94 pp 22-25

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa by Jihan Faruq al-Husayni in Cairo; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [al-Husayni] After the recent visit of Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' to Cairo, it has been said that the gap between Syria and Israel has narrowed?

[Musa] In fact, the gap they are talking about has definitely become not as large as it used to be. The gap

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

has been somewhat narrowed, but it is still there. No agreement has been reached on any point.

There are four basic points. Regarding withdrawal, Israel's stand on it has not been specified. This question can only be settled through full withdrawal in accordance with Resolution 242 and the principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of others' territory by war. The issue of security and security arrangements can be agreed upon by the two sides. Regarding, the issue of normalization or open relations between Israel and Syria, Syria says no relations can be established with Israel unless there is full withdrawal, or at least until there is a definite agreement on full withdrawal. There is also the relationship between normalization and withdrawal, i.e., when does normalization start and when does gradual withdrawal start. All these issues are still subject to negotiations. No agreement has been reached on any of them.

However, the general atmosphere has become more open. Policy has led to some relaxation in the existing tension. Both Syria and Israel have taken steps forward. [passage omitted]

[Al-Husayni] During your recent visit to Israel, some Israeli papers attacked you, charging you of being conservative and adamant?

[Musa] Do I go to Israel to win the Israelis' admiration? I go there to speak objectively. There is a relationship of peace between ourselves and Israel. We may disagree on certain matters. We have specific stands.

Certain constants govern our policy. Our stand on arms control in the region is based on a demand that Israel abandon the nuclear option and place all that under international supervision. We will not abandon this position. Failing to reach agreement with Israel on this issue will result in certain repercussions which would make the security issue a hot, serious, and controversial issue. If we want to talk about regional future security, we must raise this issue.

Besides, other issues in the peace process are still subject to discussion between ourselves and Israel. They concern the Palestinian track, which is a serious track. Agreements must be respected. The Palestine question should be resolved, not dismantled. [passage omitted]

[Al-Husayni] Iraq has declared an end to the state of war with Israel and expressed a readiness to meet with Israeli officials. Will this expedite the lifting of the international sanctions imposed on Iraq?

[Musa] We learned about this from the press. Eventually, peace should prevail in the region as a whole. The Iraqi dimension has other aspects outside the peace process.

[Al-Husayni] How long will the sanctions last?

[Musa] The sanctions must eventually come to an end. No sanctions can be permanent. This is impossible. The Iraqi people's rights must be respected. Iraq's sovereignty must be respected. We want Iraq to free itself of the constant "charge" that it still has ambitions in Kuwait. This is unacceptable. Kuwait is an independent, sovereign Arab state. The key for Iraq is not recognizing or dealing with Israel. This is a separate issue which Iraq can decide. They key is to "recognize" Kuwait as independent and sovereign state and to put an end to the issue of the 19th governorate. This recognition should not be through a press statement. Rather, it should be documented, legal, official, and registered. This is the key for the development of the relationship.

[Al-Husayni] Are the Iraqi people suffering as a result of the international sanctions?

[Musa] Of course, the Iraqi people are suffering. All of us are very disturbed by what is happening in Iraq to the Iraqi people. At the same time, we do not abandon Kuwaiti citizens. Iraqi citizens are our brothers, and so are the Kuwaitis. There is no question about that. We do not prefer one side over the other. Therefore, we say it is the right of the Iraqi people to live decently and with dignity. For our part, we can do anything to preserve the Iraqi citizens' right to their country and sovereignty on their territory. We support their right to keep their country united and that they not be tormented or kept under constant punishment. They must live in dignity. All these are axiomatic. Again and again, though, the key is an official, documented recognition of Kuwait as an independent, sovereign state. [passage omitted]

[Al-Husayni] What about relations with Sudan?

[Musa] Relations with Sudan are still in a state of tension. There are still major difficulties. However, Sudan is a fraternal country and its people are fraternal people with strong ties to the Egyptian people. This requires that we do all we can to overcome the existing obstacles in the relations. [passage omitted].

Six Arrested in Mubarak Assassination Plot

NC2211154294 Paris AFP in English 1450 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Nov 22 (AFP)—Security forces have arrested six people accused of sheltering a Muslim militant convicted of trying to assassinate Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, police and legal sources said.

Hamadah Muhammad Lutfi told police after his arrest last week that the six had provided him with apartments after a military court sentenced him to death in absentia last February for trying to kill Mubarak, a legal source told AFP.

The six suspected militants were arrested in the 'Ayn Shams and Abu Za'bal neighborhoods of Cairo and remanded in custody for 15 days pending investigation, reports said.

Lutfi, an Egyptian army captain, and two other soldiers were sentenced to death, while eight other militants were

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

given 10 to 25 years in prison for the plot to set off a bomb as Mubarak passed through a military base near the border with Libya.

Police arrested Lutfi in an apartment in Cairo, where he had gone to meet 'Ahmad Hasan 'Abd-al Khalil, a new militant leader of the al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah who police shot dead November 17.

Police said Lutfi had received 40,000 dollars from 'Abd-al-Khalil and instructions for new militant attacks.

Under Egyptian law, Lutfi has the right to appeal his death sentence since he was tried in absentia, a spokesman for the Egyptian Human Rights Organization told AFP.

"But the appeal will probably be rejected," the source said.

Muslim militants have waged a campaign of violence in Egypt in March 1992 in a bid to topple the government. Some 500 people have died since then.

Police Officers Killed in Upper Egypt Region

Sentry Killed in Mallawi

NC2211150294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1435 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 22 Nov (MENA)—The body of a regular sentry, Mikha'il Farah, from al-Rawdah Police Station in Mallawi, al-Minya Governorate, Upper Egypt, was found today.

The body was found in a water drain outside the village of Umm Tis'ah in Mallawi.

An official security source said the sentry was shot from behind in the head and back and his weapon was found nearby.

Investigating officials went to the scene and the prosecution was told to open an investigation.

Further on Killing in Mallawi

NC2211182894 Paris AFP in English 1507 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] al-Minya, Egypt, Nov 22 (AFP)—Suspected Moslem militants shot dead a Coptic Christian who served as a police auxiliary in Egypt's troubled south, police here said Tuesday [22 November].

Residents of Mallawi in al-Minya province, 241 kilometers (149 miles) south of Cairo, found the bullet-riddled body of 45-year-old Mikha'il Farah lying on a road still clutching his rifle, police said.

Police believe the militants fled to surrounding sugarcane plantations.

Police here said the militants are targeting auxiliaries because they serve as informers to the security and police forces.

The shooting brings to 501 the number of people killed since militants launched a campaign of violence in March 1992 in a bid to topple the secularist government.

Three Policemen Killed in Manfalut

NC2311112494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1054 GMT 23 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Asyut, 23 Nov (MENA)—Three policemen were martyred inside their car and a citizen was injured this morning in a surprise attack by unknown assailants who opened fire on them in al-Ma'had al-Dini [religious institute] Square in Manfalut, Upper Egypt.

The citizen, Maurice Zaki Hanna, an agricultural laborer who happened to be on the scene, was wounded.

The three martyrs are Abu-al-Hasan 'Antar Qannawi, a warrant officer at the State Security Detectives Department; Yahya 'Abd-al- Munji, a police vehicle driver; and Fathi Qasid 'Awni, a police recruit.

Sources said that the injured man was transferred to Manfalut Central Hospital for medical treatment. Security forces surrounded the area to search for the culprits and the Manfalut Prosecutor's Office has started an investigation.

Reaction to Deaths of Nationals in Jordan, Iraq

JN2211101994 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I in Arabic 17 Nov 94 p 29

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo—Informed sources in Cairo have told AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I that Egypt is pondering deterrent measures against Iraq and Jordan in reaction to the increasing number of deaths among its nationals in the two countries. AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I has learned that the measures include the postponement of next month's meetings of the higher joint committee, chaired by the Egyptian and Jordanian prime ministers, freezing trade relations between the two countries, not receiving Jordanian officials in Cairo, and halting Egyptian officials' visits to Jordan.

The sources added that Cairo has refused to receive any Iraqi officials after the reemergence of the phenomenon of coffins flown daily from Baghdad to Cairo. Some 65 bodies were flown back home in less than two months. The sources said that Baghdad had earlier asked Egypt to receive some Iraqi ministers in order to discuss Iraq's recognition of Kuwait and open a channel of communication between the two countries. Egypt, however, turned down the Iraqi request. The Egyptian Government has also cautioned Iraq against the continuation of punitive measures against Egyptians in Iraq and called for the release of its imprisoned nationals in Baghdad.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

The Egyptian Council of Ministers is due to discuss in detail an urgent report on the proposed measures against Jordan and Iraq. The report will then be referred to President Husni Mubarak, who asked that this report be prepared expeditiously.

Writer Sees Saddam Husayn's Neck 'in U.S. Hands'

NC2211115894 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 17 Nov 94 p 4

[Article by Muhammad 'Abdallah in the "Foreign Policy" column: "The Lady's Talk"]

[FBIS Translated Text] During a long sojourn in the United States last summer, I sensed that the U.S. press feels a guilt complex toward Iraq because it believed all the official U.S. stories about the Gulf crisis since it began with the invasion of Kuwait in August 1990. Indeed, a prominent U.S. journalist told me that throughout its history the U.S. press never before published such an amount of untrue information as it did during the Gulf crisis.

In an apparent act of atonement, major U.S. newspapers began to publish numerous stories highlighting Iraq's reconstruction of installations destroyed by the coalition forces during the war to liberate Kuwait, particularly roads, bridges, historical sites, and famous cenotaphs in al-Najaf and Karbala'. These newspapers admitted that Iraq was not returned to the Middle Ages as a result of the destruction inflicted on it during Kuwait's liberation. They pointed out that the Iraqis quickly restored most of their installations to operational status with the help of a strategic reserve of all kinds of materials.

Nevertheless, Madeleine Albright, head of the U.S. delegation to the United Nations and current Security Council president, did not hesitate to declare that Iraq does not deserve to have the sanctions lifted because President Saddam Husayn built palaces for himself and his family in the past few years that cost $500 million, one of which is more than three times the size of the White House. Albright showed satellite photos to the Security Council members to prove her words.

It is certain that Saddam Husayn began building these palaces before the Kuwait liberation war. The large palace to which Albright referred was indeed a matter of ridicule against Saddam who aspired to build a large empire on the ruins of the Arab countries, beginning with Kuwait. It is my belief that Saddam continued building these palaces with the help of the strategic reserve mentioned by U.S. newspapers.

Perhaps it was this that made the heads of the Russian and French delegations respond to the U.S. lady by saying that the Security Council resolutions do not include the provision that Saddam should stop building palaces.

The moral of this lesson is that Saddam's imbecility, perpetrated in an era when it is impossible to play games with the big powers, caused his neck to be in U.S. hands. It will remain there even after the UN Security Council lifts the sanctions two months from now, if Saddam lives long enough.

University President on Elections, Extremism

NC2211140794

[FBIS Editorial Report] Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic on 18 November carries a 5,000-word interview with Cairo University President Dr. Mufid Shihab by Iman Raslan on pages 28-33 and 82-83. Shihab discusses the aftermath of the College Deans Council decision at a meeting this week to abide by an administrative court ruling suspending the university student union elections slated for 5-21 November. He explains that the council will contest the ruling within two days.

Shihab explains that a student of medicine filed a lawsuit requesting the suspension of the university president's decision to hold elections in the aforementioned period, a period the student said he believed was insufficient. Dr. Shihab contends: "University students should not allow the elections to distract them from the educational process for more than 18 days."

Answering an accusation that the university has crossed off the names of 1,200 students from the list of candidates, Dr. Shihab states that there was no crossing off, because the term itself bears political and security implications that do not exist. He says: "There were no political motives behind the rejection of particular candidates," adding that candidates who have a record of breaking university rules were rejected.

Asked about the spread of extremism at the university and the reasons for it, Dr. Shihab replies: "Some extremist groups exist among students and teaching staff." He says he believes the main reasons behind the spread of terrorism are the economic crisis and the psychological factor. He explains that some students come from a poor economic background and sometimes feel bitter about social differences. "Some evil groups use religion to fan these feelings," he notes. He further explains that many university students come from rural areas. They are estranged from their families and feel like strangers in Cairo. Some groups use these circumstances and try to gain popularity by rendering services free to these students and providing them with cheap books and university notes.

Dr. Shihab adds a third reason—a lack of communication between the professor and his students. "Some professors, deans, and university presidents have refrained from opening a dialogue with their students. We stood for years watching extremism spread among students. When we awoke we opted to use the security approach alone. I approve of the security approach only if there is a crime or terrorism. But when it comes to

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

extremism alone, I support dialogue rather than the security approach," he says.

Dr. Shihab agrees that extremists flourish in colleges where practical subjects are followed, like medicine and engineering, more than they do in theoretical colleges like Dar al-'Ulum and the Faculty of Commerce.

Asked about the number of extremists in the university, he replies that they number "a few thousand," adding that they control student unions in "seven or eight" out of 22 colleges in Cairo University. He remarks that the number of extremists is very low in colleges like the Economy and Political Science, Arts, and Mass Communication colleges, because, according to him, the number of students at these colleges is usually low and most come from a better economic background. He expects their number to diminish this year with the university-initiated dialogue with the "silent majority."

Asked about extremism among teaching staff, Dr. Shihab points out that a limited number of staff members instigated the students by writing leaflets. Some of these teachers were referred to trial. He stresses that the state must help solve university professors' problems by increasing their financial benefits and improving their economic and social standards to spare them the need to find outside jobs that affect their performance.

Dr. Shihab is asked how the university deals with the problem of extremist groups, which distribute cheap books and notes among the students. He remarks that the notes they sell cheaply or free of charge cost a lot of money. This implies that some quarters are financing them, he suggests. He believes that this requires the university to render these services to students to guard them against falling prey to these groups.

Dr. Shihab says he believes it was wrong to ban political activity at the university, since the political upbringing of youth and increasing their awareness of national issues is a duty. But he stresses that he is as much against establishing party offices inside the university as he is against extremist groups.

The university president discusses the measures adopted to organize entry into the campus to prevent infiltration by terrorists.

Talking about the role of the university guards, he remarks that they have nothing to do with intellectual, dialogue, or extremist issues, which, he notes, are the responsibility of the deans. The guards intervene only if a fight ensues among students or between students and university workers. They also check identification cards at the gates, he explains.

Dr. Shihab affirms that he is not against private universities, providing that qualified staff and a serious syllabus are provided for them supervised by the Education Ministry to avoid turning them into mere profitable enterprises.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

GCC Foreign Ministers Hold Meeting in Bahrain

Meeting Opens

JN2211114494 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1108 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Manama, 22 Nov (WAKH)—Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Mubarak Bin-Muhammad Al Khalifah opened here today the meeting of the ministerial council, which will prepare for the 15th session of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] Supreme Council. The opening session was attended by the foreign ministers of the GCC states and GCC Secretary General Fahim al-Qasimi. [passage omitted]

Meeting Ends

JN2311132194 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1120 GMT 23 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Manama, 23 Nov (WAKH)—The foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council states concluded their third and final session in Manama today.

Kuwait

Assembly Satisfied With Iraqi Recognition

LD2211203394 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1448 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 22 Nov—The National Assembly today expressed its satisfaction at Iraq's recognition of Kuwaiti borders and sovereignty, and stressed the significance of the Iraqi compliance with all the Security Council's resolutions in connection with the war for liberating Kuwait.

This followed after the National Assembly speaker Ahmad al-Sa'dun received all the official documents in connection with Iraq's recognition of the Kuwaiti borders and sovereignty from Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah Al-Salim al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister.

Dr. Ahmad 'Abdallah al-Ruba'i, minister of education and higher education, said in the ordinary session which the National Assembly held under the chairmanship of the National Assembly speaker, that "we are following up on the Iraqi curricula, and have received the Iraqi books which we are studying. We will ask the UN to incorporate the official Kuwaiti borders into the Iraqi school curricula."

Meanwhile, the majority of the National Assembly members noted the need to issue a public and official declaration strongly emphasizing Kuwait's rejection of any normalization process with Israel, and denounced "the Israeli goods' invasion of Kuwaiti markets."

Nasir 'Abdallah al-Rawdan, the second deputy prime minister and finance minister, denied that Israeli goods have invaded Kuwait. He emphasized that Kuwait was still boycotting Israel, pointing out that the Gulf Cooperation Council countries have decided to lift the primary and secondary boycott of Israel.

The minister al-Rawdan vouched to take all measures to implement the law on boycotting Israel, and confiscate all Israeli goods in the Kuwaiti market "if they truly existed." [passage omitted]

Minister on Arab League Future, Iraq Embargo

MM2111142494 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 19 Nov 94 p2

[Unattributed report: "Kuwait Will Not Establish Relations With Israel Before Boycott Is Lifted With Arab League Approval"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tunis, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Kuwaiti Justice Minister Mishari al-'Anjari has stated that the establishment of diplomatic relations between Kuwait and Israel must be preceded by an Arab League decision to end the first class boycott of Israel.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT during his visit to Tunis, al-'Anjari also talked about the embargo against Iraq, amendment of the Arab League charter, and ties with Tunisia.

Al-'Anjari said that Kuwait had lifted the second and third class boycott of Israel, which covered companies that dealt with Israel or had links with it. That decision, he said, was made in agreement with the brothers in the Gulf Cooperation Council states and after study of the issue with some other Arab states which had taken such a step previously.

He said that Kuwait has sought the help of numerous companies for the reconstruction of Kuwait after the liberation without making a close scrutiny of their nationalities.

Commenting on the current debate regarding the Arab League and its future, al-'Anjari said that it was necessary to reexamine and develop the Arab League charter to make it more effective and to make the Arab League more capable of solving problems which arise between member states without recourse to international organizations.

He also said that it was necessary to rearrange the Arab joint action priorities now that 50 years have passed since the Arab League was created.

On the embargo against Iraq, the Kuwaiti justice minister said that Kuwait had no authority and could not unilaterally decide to lift or not lift the embargo against Iraq. That, he said, falls within the jurisdiction of the UN Security Council which determines to what extent Iraq has complied with the UN resolutions.

Al-'Anjari, who is in Tunis at the invitation of Tunisian Justice Minister Sadok Chabane, said that Iraq has not complied with several Security Council resolutions,

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

especially the one calling for the release of the Kuwait POW's it is holding in its prisons.

UK's Major Sends Message to Heir Apparent

LD2211113894 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1022 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait, 22 Nov (KUNA)—Britain underlined its commitment to the security, sovereignty, and stability of the State of Kuwait. This was stated in a message received by Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, Kuwait's heir apparent and prime minister, from British Prime Minister John Major.

A statement issued by the Office of the Heir Apparent and Prime Minister said the British prime minister also expressed his government's insistence that the Iraqi regime should fully implement all the UN Security Council resolutions related to its aggression against the State of Kuwait and that his government will cooperate with the International Red Cross Committee on the issue of the [Kuwaiti] POW's and hostages.

Saudi Arabia

Cabinet on Palestinian Issue, Chernomyrdin Visit

LD2111212594 Riyadh SPA in English 1938 GMT 21 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riyadh, Nov 21, SPA—Crown Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the deputy premier and commander of the National Guard, chaired here this afternoon a regular weekly session of the Council of Ministers, which focused on new and important political developments in Arab and international arenas, especially those concerning the Palestinian question.

This was disclosed to SAUDI PRESS AGENCY by Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir.

The council has expressed grave concern over the bloody clashes, which occured on Friday in Gaza and claimed 15 lives and more than 200 wounded. The council appeals to the entire Palestinian leadership to exercise self restraint and not to give a chance to those who try to jeopardise the peace process in the region.

On the other hand, Crown Prince 'Abdallah provided a summary on the recent visit to the kingdom by the Russian Prime Minister Chernomyrdin and his talks with custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'abd-al-'Aziz and Crown Prince 'Abdallah and the outcome of talks made by his accompanying Russian officials with their Saudi counterparts. Crown Prince 'Abdallah described the visit as "successful" and said view points were identical one matters raised during the talks.

Crown Prince 'Abdallah also briefed the cabinet on some Arab developments and highlighted the efforts being made by various Arab and international leaderships to establish peace. He noted the leading and important role undertaken by the kingdom in this context.

For his part, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister made the council acquainted with the Arab and international positions on the major Arab issues.

The Council of Ministers reviewed a number of domestic items on its agenda and listened to clarifications made by the concerned ministers on matters raised during the meeting and Crown Prince 'Abdallah ordered the concerned authorities to make the necessary measures towards them.

The cabinet decided that the draft project of the joint Arab working protocol would be submitted to the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] ministerial council during the upcoming preparatory meeting on November 22-23 in Bahrain for the 15th GCC summit and paved the way for a collective stand towards the protocol before the scheduled meeting for the experts committee of the Damascus declaration states to be held in Cairo.

It also authorized the foreign minister or whom-so-ever he might empower to initial signature of the protocol concluded between the the Foreign Ministry of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Foreign Ministry of the Federal Republic of Russia and that the protocol should be submitted after completion of regular procedures.

The cabinet also ratified appointments at grade 15th.

King, French Prime Minister Discuss Cooperation

LD2111205294 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 21 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, today received a telephone call from French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur.

Amiable exchanges were made during the call, as well as affirmation to continue joint cooperation in all fields and work to bolster and consolidate the relations between the two friendly countries.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Russian Duma Delegation Meets With Officials

Duma Member Urges Lifting Sanctions

JN2111144694 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1145 GMT 21 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 21 Nov (INA)—Viktor Vishnyakov, chairman of the Arab Affairs Committee in the Russian Parliament, the Duma, has condemned the continuation of the unfair embargo clamped on the Iraqi people, which has claimed thousands of lives due to the acute shortages of food and medicine it has created.

In a statement to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY on his arrival in Baghdad, Viktor Vishnyakov, a member of the Russian Liberal Democratic Party, urged the United Nations to make serious and tangible efforts to lift the economic sanctions clamped on Iraq, especially since Iraq has fulfilled its obligations as set forth in the relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

The Russian official added he will meet with several Iraqi officials on ways to promote friendly bilateral cooperation in the interest of the two peoples and their common interests.

Ramadan Meets Delegation

JN2211182194 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1401 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 22 Nov (INA)—Iraqi Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan has said that he is absolutely confident that Iraqi-Russian relations will witness steady progress and that bilateral fields of cooperation will be expanded in all areas.

During a meeting with a Russian parliamentary delegation under Ramil Nozvig Mirsav [name as transliterated], head of the Arab Relations Committee at the Russian parliament, Ramadan said that the Iraqi-Russian relations, which have for many years been characterized by strength and expansion, will witness a positive and extensive development and a prosperous future reflecting the desire of officials in both Iraq and Russia to promote bilateral relations.

The vice president praised Russia's stands and role in the effort to lift the blockade imposed on the Iraqi people.

The head and members of the Russian parliamentary delegation expressed great appreciation for leader President Saddam Husayn's nationalist leadership. They stressed that he is the only leader who stood to defend the dignity of his homeland and people proudly and honorably.

The members of the Russian parliamentary delegation said that the continued blockade imposed on the Iraqi people is a crime committed by the enemies of humanity—those who falsely raise human rights slogans.

The meeting was attended by the Russian ambassador in Baghdad.

Assembly Speaker Meets Delegation

JN2211193594 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1416 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 22 Nov (INA)—National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih met today with a Duma—Russian parliament—delegation under Ramil Nozvig Mirsav [name as transliterated], head of the Arab Relations Committee at the Russian parliament. The National Assembly speaker expressed great appreciation for the Russian people's support for the Iraqi people's steadfastness in the face of the unjust blockade imposed on them. He said that Russia's stand points out the profound relations of friendship between the two countries. He said that the Russian parliamentary delegation's visit falls within the framework of promoting the existing relations between the two friendly peoples and Russia's desire to have an influential role as a superpower in strengthening ties of friendship and opening broad horizons for expanding joint action on both Arab and international fronts.

Sa'di Mahdi Salih praised the Russian diplomacy's extensive efforts to expedite an end to the difficult circumstances experienced by Iraq, especially the recent moves at the UN Security Council and the Russian foreign minister's attendance of the National Assembly's session during which it decided to recognize Kuwait, noting that those efforts to achieve regional peace and security have been crowned with success.

Salih stressed the Iraqi parliament's readiness for all forms of cooperation with the Russian parliament to serve the interests of the two friendly countries and peoples and to promote relations between the two parliaments. He lauded the Russian parliament's efforts to set up a special commission for assessing and promoting Russian relations with Arab countries. He said this would enable Russia to have distinguished relations with Arab countries and obstruct U.S. attempts to control the region, something which would lead to wasting Arab rights.

Sa'di Mahdi Salih reviewed the scope of destruction sustained by industrial, productive, and services installations during the heinous aggression against Iraq. He also reviewed the effects of the comprehensive blockade imposed on the Iraqi people, noting that the blockade has resulted in the death of hundreds of thousands of Iraqi citizens due to the acute shortage of medicine and food.

Barzani, Talabani Parties Sign 'Alliance Document'

JN2211211794 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 22 Nov 94

["Press statement" on the signing of an "alliance document" between the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan and the Kurdistan Democratic Party on 21 November]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[FBIS Translated Text] At a joint meeting in the resort town of Salah-al-Din yesterday, 21 November 1994, and in the presence of Mas'ud Barzani and Jalal Talabani, the PUK [Patriotic Union of Kurdistan] and KDP [Kurdistan Democratic Party] political bureaus signed a new and important agreement of alliance between the PUK and the KDP. The agreement included several important points on removing obstacles to the process of comprehensive normalization in Iraqi Kurdistan.

According to this agreement, the two sides will act in solidarity to reestablish the Kurdistan government and to expand and form coalitions with the other Kurdistan parties to develop capabilities and run the Kurdistan government's administration, unify the ranks, and exert efforts to solve basic problems, beginning with the problem of the citizens' living condition. The two sides will also work to restore security and law and order and preserve and develop the democratic experiment, taking into consideration the role of the Kurdistan people and their liberation movement to save Iraq from dictatorship and oppression and transform it into a democratic, federal, parliamentary Iraq with a multiparty system.

The agreement devoted a number of points to the general outlines of the stands of solidarity of the two sides on internal, regional, and international issues and problems in a way that will serve our people's accomplishments and relations of neighborhood, coexistence, and respect with the neighboring states. The new agreement is a follow-up to the democratic efforts exerted by the various sides of the Kurdistan Front and the popular sectors, peaceful committees, and the Iraqi National Congress, the other Iraqi opposition forces, and our people's friends in all parts of the world.

Undoubtedly, the agreement and its implementation will impart relief to our people and will be an object of their support because it will ensure unity of their ranks and cooperation until the end of this century. It will lead us to immediately begin construction and development and to deal with the citizens' living conditions.

The provisions of this agreement will be announced in a special meeting of the Kurdistan parliament to be attended by the two sides, the Kurdistan political forces, representatives of the various brotherly nationalities in the Kurdistan region, and all the national figures and representatives who heed the call for a coalition.

[Dated] 21 November 1994, the resort town of Salah-al-Din

Saddam Lauds 'Good' State Employees

JN2211214394 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] President leader Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him, has said: As we are now in the phase of crossing to safety and are about to reap the fruits of steadfastness and jihad, God willing, we should always be preoccupied with supporting and appreciating the good and persevering state employees.

The president added: We should also keep these employees from (?vying) with the bad ones or illegal [words indistinct], so we can protect these leading models which were helped by the steadfastness and jihad against committing mistakes or following the examples of the weak ones [word indistinct].

His excellency continued: This [words indistinct] leading models are held in trust with the officials. Likewise, the families of the officials are held in trust with them. The more you manage to support and protect these employees, the more you succeed before God, the homeland, and people.

These remarks were made by the president leader, may God protect him, while chairing the 27th session of the cabinet. The cabinet discussed a number of organizational issues in the fields of higher education, scientific research, health, transportation, and communications. Appropriate decisions were made on these issues.

Regime Reportedly Ignoring Smuggling From Iran

NC2111154294 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1500 GMT 21 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Iranian-Iraqi borders have witnessed noticeable activity over the past few days, with Iranian goods and products being smuggled into Iraq. Sources close to the ruling regime in Baghdad said the regime's authorities encourage this smuggling since they have suggested that the customs officials on the Iraqi-Iranian borders turn a blind eye to goods and products being smuggled into Iraq.

It is known that Saddam Husayn's regime has concentrated its efforts on getting essentials from Iran, Turkey, and Jordan during the past few years. Trucks loaded with goods cross the Iraqi borders in an organized manner.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Rabin on Clinton Talks, Says No Progress With Syria

TA2311072594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 23 Nov 94

[Report by Washington-based correspondent Arye Golan—italicized passages are recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Returning to his hotel for a short break last night, Prime Minister Rabin reviewed his talks in Washington. He obtained a promise from President Clinton to recommend that Congress maintain the current level of annual aid to Israel in the 1996 budget. The President further approved a five-year plan for Arrow project developments, after which Israel will be able to position one or two operational units of the Arrow antimissile missile on its territory.

In the future, Israel will need additional early warning equipment, including air warning, but requesting them now is premature, a senior Israeli source said. He added that Iran and Syria are already putting together some expensive components of the North-Korean Scud-C missiles and receiving infrastructure assistance, technology, and the means to build the missiles independently. The senior Israeli source added that some naive people at the Israeli Foreign Ministry believed they would be able to persuade North Korea to stop selling missiles to Iran and Syria. We have meanwhile notified the United States that that has proved impossible, and the United States has subsequently been able to terminate the development of North Korea's Nodong 1,300-km missile, or at least its sale to Iran. There is no guarantee, however, that North Korea is still not developing its long-range missiles.

As for the prospect of peace with Syria, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin last night voiced disappointment that the various proposals that Israel had submitted to Damascus in a bid to build trust between the two countries were rejected by Syria.

[Rabin] *I fail to detect a Syrian statement—definitely no Syrian deed—proclaiming a desire for peace. They would not receive the parents of the Israeli soldiers who were missing in the Lebanon war or permit Syrian and Israeli reporters to visit Israel and Syria. We are ready to permit it. I think there are quite a few confidence-building measures on which we could agree, and yet everything we proposed was rejected by the Syrians.*

And yet, despite the absence of progress on the Syrian track, the prime minister believes President al-Asad does not want war.

[Rabin] *I believe al-Asad wants peace. The problem is that I am not certain the peace he wants is exactly the peace we want, and his price for peace is one we cannot afford. Nevertheless, we must strive to continue the process.*

Later the prime minister was asked to comment on Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' observation that Netzarim is a thorn that should be extracted.

[Rabin] *There can be different views even in a government. Anyone who wants that should raise it at a cabinet meeting and let the cabinet decide. The truth is that, as we had insisted and demanded, the agreement we signed stipulates that not a single settlement would be uprooted.* [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 23 November on page 6 publishes a report by Washington correspondents Shim'on Schiffer and Hayim Shibi, which adds: "Rabin listed three security-related conditions Israel set forth in the negotiations with Syria: Border incidents should be prevented; demilitarized zones should be established to prevent surprise attacks; troop levels should be reduced and control arrangements in sensitive areas agreed upon; and Syria should stop abetting terrorism."]

Peres on Syrian Stalemate, PA Financial Crisis

TA2311114994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 23 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says the negotiations with Syria did not have enough wind to go ahead, but Israel does not intend to stop them. Israel would continue to search for more openness in the Syrian approach. The foreign minister was speaking to reporters just before addressing an Israeli and Japanese dialogue at the Van Leer Institute. Jack Katzenell reports:

[Begin recording] [Katzenell] Foreign Minister Peres criticized the Syrians for keeping the negotiations on a very narrow track, with no informal talks behind the scenes, nor high level meetings in public. But in Peres' view, the main problem was that they were not prepared to negotiate without preconditions:

[Peres] Basically the problem is that the Syrians are saying: Agree to whatever we are demanding, and then we shall negotiate. I don't think that this can serve as an opening position. They are insisting that before the negotiations will really start that Israel will declare that we shall withdraw completely from the Golan Heights, dismantle the settlements, and then negotiate. Nobody will start this sort of negotiations that way.

[Katzenell] Turning to the problems of the Palestinians, the foreign minister said next week's conference of the donor countries in Brussels must take prompt action to ease the economic distress in the Gaza Strip:

[Peres] Well, I shall ask for the acceleration of the contributions to the PA [Palestinian Authority]. It looks like that many of the demonstrators in the Gaza Strip were unemployed youngsters, and we have to create jobs, we have to create public works, and in my judgment this is a major issue.

[Katzenell] The Palestinians, people like Sa'ib 'Urayqat, have accused the donor countries of dragging their feet,

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

of finding excuses. Is it a problem that the Palestinians have still not created sufficient accountability?

[Peres] There are problems on both sides. You see, the donors initially gave money, or made pledges for projects. Now all of a sudden we discovered that we need a very sizable amount of money for the recurrent expenses to pay the salaries of the police and the administration and the early empowerment. So now we have to convince the donors to allocate part of the money for the recurrent expenses. This is the problem. [end recording]

Sharon: Rabin, al-Asad Achieve 'Dramatic Progress'

TA2311123694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 23 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Likud Knesset Member [MK] Ari'el Sharon says Prime Minister Rabin and Syrian President al-Asad have made dramatic progress toward a peace agreement that would include a full withdrawal from the Golan Heights. Sharon was speaking at a meeting of the Likud caucus, where leaders of the party also said the next stage of the agreement with the Palestinians must be thwarted. David Ze'ev reports:

[Begin Ze'ev recording] Likud MK Ari'el Sharon, who is known to have had periodic contacts with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, says Rabin and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad agree on a three-year, full withdrawal from the Golan Heights. Speaking at a meeting of the Likud caucus this morning, Sharon said the only major difference between the two men is what would happen in the first year. Sharon says the Israeli prime minister wants only a light withdrawal from the Druze area of the heights, al-Asad wants in the coming year a pullback to the edge of the Golan and the evacuation of most of the Jewish settlements. He would then be ready to wait another two years for the full withdrawal. In the full withdrawal Rabin agrees to pull back to the international border, al-Asad to the border before the 1967 war. In either case, Sharon points out, the withdrawal would be to the bottom of the Golan.

Ari'el Sharon maintains that, both in the case of the Syrians and that of the Palestinians, Prime Minister Rabin wants to put off the traumatic final stage until after the 1996 elections. But MK David Levi told the Likud caucus that the stage of the agreement with the Palestinians that is about to be implemented is itself the most dangerous and critical, a pullout from large areas of Judaea and Samaria. It is not a redeployment of army troops but a pullout that would create many more Netzarim-like situations in Judaea and Samaria. Calling this autonomy, said Levi, is the biggest fraud. There has never been this kind of national abandonment. Sharon called on the Likud to draw up a map of the smallest possible size of autonomous areas, only where the Arab population is concentrated. Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu, just back from the United States, said Prime Minister Rabin, still in America, may have thought he would get billions of dollars for al-Asad to draw him into a peace agreement with Israel. But, Netanyahu says, following the latest turn to domestic affairs in the U.S. after the latest elections, Rabin will not get those billions. [end recording]

Beilin on Progress on Syrian Track, Iraq

PY2211223094 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 20 Nov 94 p 50

["Exclusive" telephone interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin by Cristina Fernandes in Jerusalem; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Fernandes] Israel is currently concentrating its efforts on peace negotiations with Syria. Are the two countries near an agreement?

[Beilin] I believe Syria is ready to normalize relations with Israel, and Israel is prepared to make concessions regarding the Golan Heights (Syrian territory occupied since 1967). But the negotiations are proceeding too slowly.

[Fernandes] What do you need to reach an agreement?

[Beilin] Peace depends only on Syria. The Syrians are still not ready to raise the conversations to a political level. In spite of the progress attained during formal discussions in Washington between the Israeli and Syrian ambassadors, in spite of the progress made as result of intense U.S. diplomatic activities in the region, we must—and we still want to—negotiate at a political level and to intensify the pace of the talks in order to find a solution.

[Fernandes] Do you believe Syrian President Lieutenant General Hafiz al-Asad really wants peace with Israel?

[Beilin] I cannot tell you what al-Asad thinks. I can only say that, judging from his declarations, his behavior, by what he tells the local media, a real change is taking place in Syria. That is happening not because the Syrian president loves us, but because he has made a rational decision: Syria must make peace with Israel and normalize relations.

[Fernandes] What concession is Israel willing to make?

[Beilin] The most important: the Golan Heights, from where we are willing to withdraw. Contrary to what other governments said, we are the first—after many years—to be willing to promise the Syrians the Golan Heights.

[Fernandes] Many skeptics say the concessions granted by Israel to the Palestinians were just symbolical. They say Israel still controls vital areas like borders, defense, international relations, while it increases its settlement policy. What do you think?

[Beilin] That is not a serious accusation. To speak about increasing settlements is a mistake. This is the first government that has not built one settlement either on the West Bank or in the Gaza Strip. Nobody can say our

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

withdrawal from the Gaza Strip was merely symbolic. It was revolutionary. Our withdrawal from the Gaza Strip is far too serious to be called symbolic. However, we have made some symbolic gestures as well: The Palestinians are allowed to use their flag to welcome those who cross the bridge that separates Jordan from the West Bank (Allenby Bridge). These things have changed our lives. The handshake between Rabin and Arafat changed our lives meaningfully. No one can say they were merely symbolic gestures.

[Fernandes] The end of animosity in the Middle East opens the door to regional economic cooperation. The recent Casablanca Conference was a step in this direction. Is there an economic agreement underway?

[Beilin] Yes, some deals between Arabs and Israelis were closed in Casablanca. Nothing very large, but all very significant. I believe there will be other agreements between Arabs and Israelis because they want to do business. They do not take ideological matters into account.

[Fernandes] Is Israel is willing to negotiate with the Hamas?

[Beilin] We are already doing the most important thing: We are negotiating with the PLO, the principal Palestine representation in the world. Of course we could negotiate with the leader of the Hamas, but first this Islamic group should recognize the state of Israel, lay down its arms, and give up terrorism. So far, I see no reason for negotiating with Islamic extremists.

[Fernandes] Is Israel doing something to stop the violence of Islamic groups in the Gaza Strip?

[Beilin] That is up to Yasir 'Arafat. We are curbing Islamic radicalism by economically helping Palestinian autonomy. It is not very simple, it is not very easy. We promised to donate $75 million to the Palestinians and we asked other countries to also help their autonomy. We believe that helping Palestine autonomy is the most efficient way to combat the extremists who oppose peace between Israel and the Palestinians.

[Fernandes] What could happen to the peace negotiations with the Arab countries if the Labor Party (in power) loses the next parliamentary elections?

[Beilin] I do not believe any agreement signed by Israel will not be respected by a future government. If the Likud (rightist opposition), and not the Labor Party, wins the next elections the resumption of negotiations on pending issues will be difficult.

[Fernandes] Among the pending issues is the sovereignty of Jerusalem. According to the negotiations timetable that will be discussed only as of 1996. Could Israel give up its control of the Holy City in exchange for peace?

[Beilin] No. We will never give up the sovereignty of Jerusalem. The reason for leaving the subject of Jerusalem until last is because it is a very controversial, delicate subject. That does not mean we will consider giving up the city. There is no chance of giving up the sovereignty of Jerusalem. Never.

[Fernandes] What are the next steps toward peace with the Arabs, considering the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council and Northern Africa?

[Beilin] The problem with those countries does not involve signing a peace agreement—since we are not involved in any conflict with them—but normalizing relations. I believe the official boycott of Israel by Arab countries is about to end. We are also very close to strengthening diplomatic ties with those countries. I hope we will soon establish full diplomatic relations with most Arab countries.

[Fernandes] What about Iraq? Do you have a plan to overcome the misunderstandings with Saddam Husayn?

[Beilin] From my point of view, this is very simple: Once Iraq complies with the international demands and once the United Nations suspends the sanctions imposed on Iraq, there will be no obstacle to sit at a negotiation table and talk, if the Iraqis so desire.

[Fernandes] Do you believe there will ever be peace in the Middle East?

[Beilin] There will soon be peace in the Middle East. We still do not know what kind of peace. Will it be a total, complete peace? Or a peace surrounded by terrorism? The future is the only one to tell.

Rabin Not To Seek Defense Pact With U.S.

TA2311095494 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 23 Nov 94 p 5

[Report by Ben Kaspit and Avino'am Bar-Yosef in the United States]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] In his meeting with senior CIA officials on Monday [21 November], Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin raised the issue of Muslim fundamentalist terror. The prime minister even relayed to the CIA information obtained by Israel regarding Iran's involvement. "The issue of terror was raised at length, but I cannot spell out in which forum," Rabin said.

Rabin added that he does not want a defense pact with the United States. "I do not think that it is necessary or that Israel needs it," he said. "My predecessor, Yitzhaq Shamir, and I were offered numerous tempting offers concerning U.S. guarantees for Israel's security in the context of the Syrian issue, but we were not tempted." [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 23 November on page A4 publishes a report by Aluf Ben from the United States, which adds that in his meeting with CIA Director James Woolsey "Rabin brought up the problem of the money being raised in the United States for Hamas

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[Islamic Resistance Movement] in the territories. The U.S. Administration promised to look into the matter, and the prime minister asked to be informed about the findings." According to Rabin, "the issue did come up. They have legal difficulties (stopping the funds), and that really is a problem."]

Rabin's Office Denies 'Untrue' Settlement Data

TA2311061494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 23 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The government has been able to convince the Washington administration that $95 million of its investments in settlements made over the past year stemmed from the peace process and should not be deducted from the loan guarantees.

Our correspondent Ya'ir Fidel, who learned this, adds that the government made almost no investments in settlements in the past year. Israel invested $320 million in the territories that year, but the Americans deducted only $225 million.

The Prime Minister's Office said in reaction that the report alleging that Israel had submitted untrue information to the administration is unfounded. The statement adds that the funds invested in settlements in the past year, for such things as the construction of bypass roads and fences surrounding settlements, were the result of the peace process.

Egyptian Paper: U.S. Embassy To Locate in Jerusalem

NC2111140094 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 16 Nov 94 p 1

[Report from AL-AHRAM's office in Washington]

[FBIS Translated Text] Israeli sources have reported that the United States has recognized Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and has located a site south of Jerusalem and signed a contract to establish its headquarters there to replace the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv. But the U.S. State Department said there has been no change in Washington's policy toward Jerusalem, even though it signed a contract to rent a site near the Allenby Camp in Jerusalem. The U.S. State Department said that despite all this there are no urgent plans to build there. The sources added that this step goes back to a 1988 Congress decision that the United States should locate two sites, one in Jerusalem and the other in Tel Aviv, for its embassies. It clarified that the proposed site in Tel Aviv was not chosen because of a disagreement between the American and Israeli Governments over this site. The U.S. State Department pointed out that if the U.S. Embassy in Israel moves to Jerusalem it will not be before 1999. This move will be linked with the search for a permanent solution to the problems between the Palestinians and the Israelis as well as reaching agreement over the future of the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and east Jerusalem. Israeli Prime Minister Rabin is expected to meet U.S. President Bill Clinton on Monday [21 November] after Clinton returns from his Asian tour. The meeting will be attended by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who has decided to postpone his visit to the Middle East, which is now expected to take place at the beginning of next month and include Syria and Jordan.

Netanyahu, Rabin Deny Unity Government Discussed

TA2011135294 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 Nov 94 p A1

[Report by party affairs correspondent Yerah Tal]

[FBIS Translated Text] At a tete-a-tete meeting with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin last Monday [14 November], Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu showed the prime minister secret information from a foreign source describing Iran's efforts to acquire nuclear weapons as well as its involvement in international terrorism. This was reported by a source close to the Likud chairman.

Over the weekend, Rabin and Netanyahu vehemently denied reports that at their meeting they had discussed the possibility of forming a national unity government. According to the reports, Netanyahu had expressed the Likud's readiness to join a national unity government under certain conditions, whereas Rabin rejected the proposal out of hand.

Speaking to HA'ARETZ from the United States, Netanyahu firmly denied these reports. He said that the meeting had not dealt with domestic political issues, but he refused to divulge any details of his discussion with Rabin.

Political sources have made the assessment that SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] and its leader, Arye Der'i, were behind the reports about the possible establishment of a national unity government in order to convince the party's constituents that they should support SHAS' joining the government, since even the Likud was ostensibly considering such a step.

Beilin on 'Positive' Saudi Attitude to Peace

TA2211191394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin says Saudi Arabia is now showing a very positive attitude toward the Middle East peace process. Beilin has been meeting Saudi diplomats and businessmen at a gathering in Aspen, Colorado with representatives of the other Arab countries and the United States.

Reporter Jack Katzenell asked Beilin about the reports that the Saudis are interested in investing in industrial development at the Erez checkpoint:

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[Begin recording] [Beilin] They were interested in business and the idea of an industrial park between Gaza and Israel is an idea which was raised with Mr. 'Arafat by the prime minister and the foreign minister. Apparently, it may become a reality because of the interest of some other countries to donate to this park.

[Katzenell] Some months ago Foreign Minister Peres accused the Saudi Government of behaving in a negative fashion at the multilateral talks. Do you think that your talks with Saudi businessmen are a sign that their attitude toward the peace process has become more positive?

[Beilin] Yes, I must admit that talking both to diplomats and to businessmen from Saudi Arabia who attended this seminar, I felt a very different attitude. They were ready to do business. They were ready to help in the peace process. They were proud of their contribution all the years to the peace process, like the Fez plan of King Fahd and other milestones in the last two or three decades. And from what they say I understand there is another policy, perhaps a change of policy by Saudi Arabia toward the peace process.

[Katzenell] After the Gulf War, Saudi Arabia cut off its contributions to the PLO. Has the bitterness for the PLO support for Iraq been overcome, or is there still a residue?

[Beilin] It is a problem but for the first time I had an opportunity to listen to Saudis talking to Palestinians in such a plenary meeting, suggesting to them to open a new dialogue between the two of them. I think that was a very interesting development in the relations between the Saudis and the Palestinians. [end recording]

Sarid Said To Plan Compromise on Settlement

TA1811181994 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 18 Nov 94 p B2

[Article by Hana Kim: "Sarid's Not-An-Inch Plan"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] An unusual meeting took place in the Knesset about three months ago: Around the same table sat Minister Yosi Sarid; Knesset Member [MK] Hanan Porat, of the National Religious Party [NRP]; and Natan Natanson, a Jewish underground detainee who did not open his mouth throughout the session. Sarid proposed to Porat what he publicly disclosed this week: a give-and- take deal consisting of agreement to a modicum of sovereignty for a Palestinian state in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in exchange for a maximum area of Jewish settlements, based on the new plan (whose existence is being denied by the prime minister's bureau) to form settlement blocs in the territories. Porat rejected it, and had a Palestinian representative sat around the same table, he probably would have joined Porat's opposition.

Why did Porat turn down Sarid's proposal? "I asked Yosi what his red line would be if the Palestinians say they ? out that since that meeting, however, the plan (which seemed designed to circumvent the problem by paving new bypass roads for the exclusive use of Jews in the territories) has grown more acceptable to right-wing members, who fear the implementation of the next phase of the Oslo agreement. Porat did not change his mind, but MK Avraham Ravitz of United Torah Jewry says he recently met Gush Emunim members who showed great interest in it. The Tekhelet circle, which is identified with the dovish religious group Memad and whose members reside in the 'Etzyon Bloc, refers to the plan as a genuine compromise.

The changes in the right wing are not as interesting as finding out what is going on in Yosi Sarid's mind. He believes—so he said this week—in "the need to create two big settlement blocs, in which we will gather the settlers and most of the settlements." No, he does not yet say under whose sovereignty those two blocs would come or where they would be established. Porat says the reference is to the ring of settlements surrounding Jerusalem (including the 'Etzyon Bloc, where approximately half the settlers beyond the Green Line live today), and to western Samaria, an area that is not densely populated by Arabs.

Why is Sarid, who for years opposed any settlement whatsoever beyond the Green Line, currently prepared to recognize blocs of Jewish settlements in the territories? Is his plan merely another indication of his ambition to occupy the political center stage? Shulamit Aloni does not agree to it, but Ran Kohen will back Sarid. The latter claims that the Palestinian Authority, which currently objects to keeping settlements beyond the Green Line, may change its position. "The question is what you give the Palestinians in exchange," he says. "The Palestinians argued in the past that the problem was sovereignty, not the settlements. I suppose that when the redrawing of the map is discussed in the context of an interim agreement, it will transpire that certain places cannot be relocated. Ma'ale Adumim is one such place. It is inhabited by people who left Jerusalem in search of cheap housing solutions."

It turns out that Sarid will defend Ma'ale Adumim with his body and will oppose the evacuation of any other settlement in the bloc surrounding united Jerusalem. He is not the only one who holds such opinions. Hagay Marom of Labor also believes there is no chance the ring of settlements surrounding the capital will be evacuated. "A socioeconomic cross section of Israel's population lives in Ma'ale Adumim and its environs," says Sarid. "People who work in my office live there. Ma'ale Adumim is not inhabited by settlers. It is a city of 22,000 inhabitants, a neighborhood of Jerusalem beyond the Green Line. Thousands of people who bear no resemblance whatsoever to settlers reside in it." And what about the second bloc? Sarid is not prepared to elaborate on the issue.

MK Ravitz regards the still abstract plan as a compromise he can live with, even if it entails a modicum of

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

sovereignty for the Palestinians. "A solution that will keep most of the existing settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza sounds reasonable to me," he says. "As for symbols—flags people fly, anthems they sing, and insignia they wear—all that is absolutely of secondary importance. Rabbi Schach believes we must attain a practical peace, and I allow myself to interpret his position as follows: The test of a true peace lies in the ability of the Palestinian people to see Jews living in various locations in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza."

The prime minister's bureau has so far denied that it was the one that initiated the plan, but Minister Ya'aqov Tzur, who is close to Rabin, says that in order to create a separation, "remote settlements must be merged and relocated to avoid friction."

Will the merger of the settlements in two or three blocs really prevent friction with the Palestinians? Will the Palestinians agree to leave most of the settlements beyond the Green Line? What is the point of paving new roads for the exclusive use of Jews if it is not at all certain that the new plan is acceptable to the Palestinians? Many other questions remain unanswered. What is clear is that Sarid, who used to deride Meron Benvenisti's theory of irreversibility, today accepts at least half of it.

Zvulun Hammer of the NRP discussed the plan with Yitzhaq Rabin on numerous occasions in the past, "but I did not present any maps." He says the intention is "to create new settlement blocs and to pave roads connecting them, in order to prevent a territorial contiguity that would enable the creation of a Palestinian state." This plan could have been the basis for a coalition agreement between Labor and the NRP.

It turns out that Hammer was the first who proposed to Rabin the NRP version of a plan to form blocs of settlements. It included recognition of the Oslo agreement as a fait accompli, tacit agreement to relocate settlements in big blocs so as not to make it look like an evacuation, as well as opposition to granting a modicum of sovereignty to the Palestinians.

Porat, on the other hand, is not prepared to come to terms with the Oslo agreement. Nevertheless, he has been pressuring for the 'Etzyon Bloc, like the Qatif Bloc in the Gaza Strip, not to come under the responsibility of the Palestinian self-government upon the implementation of the second phase of the Oslo agreement. In Porat's view, the NRP plan envisages the "expansion of settlements." Small settlements will be expanded so that "each one of them will turn into a bloc"; if not, "they will not be relocated." Porat will not agree to the relocation of settlements. "The day will come when all these small settlements will become blocs of settlements," Porat explains his vision. [passage omitted]

Sources: 'Arafat Unable To Change Covenant Clauses

TA2011145394 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 20 Nov 94 p 2

[Report by the political correspondent in Jerusalem]

[FBIS Translated Text] There is no chance of convening the Palestine National Council [PNC] to amend the Palestinian Covenant. The 900 members of the PNC are dispersed all over the world, and many of them, especially the representatives of the extremist organizations, oppose the agreement with Israel. Political sources say Rabin knows 'Arafat will not be able to fulfill his commitments.

Reacting to the recent incidents between the Palestinian police and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] in Gaza, political circles say this is a decisive show of force between 'Arafat, on the one hand, and Hamas and Islamic Jihad—two organizations opposed to the Oslo Agreement—on the other. So far 'Arafat has tried to avoid this confrontation, but the last incident forced his hand. The unavoidable explosion has occurred.

'Arafat now has two alternatives: to take advantage of the momentum and strike at Hamas in order to eliminate it or to revert to the previous position of avoiding confrontation with Hamas for fear of losing the support of the Palestinian street and of having a civil war break out.

When Israeli and PLO representatives meet in Cairo on 29 November to discuss the second stage of the Oslo Agreement, Israel will oppose the participation of Hamas in the autonomy elections because of its call to continue with terrorism and the destruction of Israel.

It is feared that Hamas will try to take over the civilian institutions in the territories. The Palestinian Authority [PA] budget is today short of some $140 million. The donor states have still not forwarded the funds, because no supervisory mechanism has been set up to oversee the use of these funds. The Palestinian policemen also do not receive their salaries on a regular basis.

As for the fugitives who have been incorporated in the Palestinian police, Israel is entitled to hold back their salaries until the PA removes them from the police or security service. Israel is entitled to approve the list of salary-receiving Palestinian policemen.

As for Rabin's statement that he will make the continuation of the Oslo process conditional on a decision to annul the Palestinian Covenant clauses calling for the destruction of Israel, the political sources claim that the Oslo Agreement does not allow for such conditions, because the amendment of the covenant is included in the letter of assurances given by 'Arafat to Rabin, but there is no such clause in the Oslo Agreement, and, therefore, the continuation of the negotiations cannot be linked to the amendment of the covenant.

Palestinians Asked To Reinforce Netzarim Police

TA2011135094 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 20 Nov 94 p 1

[Report by On Levi]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Israel has demanded that the Palestinians reinforce their units in the area of the Netzarim junction and prevent demonstrations and riots at the sensitive intersection. This demand was issued yesterday at an emergency meeting of the Israeli-Palestinian Liaison Committee. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] yesterday beefed up its deployment in the Netzarim area to preclude attacks on the settlement by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad terrorists. [passage omitted]

At yesterday's emergency session of the Liaison Committee at the Erez checkpoint, the participants discussed the weekend's events at the Netzarim junction and in the territories in general. Brigadier General Dubi Gazit, the chairman of the Israeli committee, presented Israel's demand for a reinforcement of the Palestinian police presence in the Netzarim area and submitted an official complaint to his Palestinian counterpart, General Ziyad al-Atrash, about the damages caused by Palestinian rioters to an IDF outpost at the junction.

During the three-hour meeting, the Israelis described the scope of damage that these incidents caused to their Palestinian colleagues and demanded that the Palestinian policemen stop rioters from moving toward the Israeli position. [passage omitted]

IDF General Blames Syria for Infiltrations

TA2211151994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The commander of the Northern Command has said that the latest squads to infiltrate the security zone were composed of Palestinians who were aided by Hizballah. Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay asserted that there was no doubt that the Syrians were behind this activity. Every time there are talks or political contacts, Maj. Gen. Mordekhay said, terrorist activity in Lebanon increases. He said that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and SLA [South Lebanese Army] were prepared to fight the terrorists. Since the beginning of the year, 94 terrorists have been killed in Lebanon.

Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv reports that Maj. Gen. Mordekhay was speaking in south Lebanon at a ceremony marking Lebanon's 51st anniversary of independence. SLA Commander Antoine Lahd, also speaking at the ceremony, said that Lebanon was not an independent country and the Syrians determined its policy. Lahd asserted that the time had come for all foreign forces to leave Lebanon, including Israel.

Commander on Decision Not To Abandon Netzarim

TA2211120794 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 22 Nov 94 pp 1, 8

[Report by Aharon Klein]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has decided to upgrade security at the Netzarim junction lookout position. A series of measures that will enhance the safety of the troops in and around the position will be introduced in the coming days. To improve security and build a surrounding fence, the IDF is seeking to expropriate Palestinian-owned farm lands bordering on the position. Southern Command sources yesterday rejected the allegation, made by a number of reserve soldiers, that the army's rules of engagement were confusing.

Yesterday, the IDF completed the investigation into the 19 November attack in which First Sergeant Gil Dadon was killed at the Netzarim junction. According to a senior Southern Command element, the investigation revealed that Sgt. Dadon and another reserve soldier were outside the outpost when the terrorists opened fire, wounding Sgt. Dadon. The two were standing outside the outpost because, according to soldiers, the smell inside was unbearable.

Major General Sha'ul Mufaz, commander of the Southern Command, has decided that, in the future, IDF soldiers will not abandon the Netzarim position should it be stormed by rioting Palestinians and that the IDF will contend with the rioters. A senior element in the Southern Command said that one of the reasons for the general's decision was the Palestinian police's diffidence toward the rioters during the weekend, which led to the rioters taking the position.

The general's decision was conveyed to the Palestinians yesterday via the liaison committee. Under the new regulations, the Palestinian police will clear the area and allow IDF troops to handle the rioters.

Yesterday, the IDF continued to upgrade the protective measures taken around the Netzarim position. Protective concrete slabs were placed along the road leading to the junction lookout position to reduce the danger of troops coming under fire from orchards around the position. The senior Southern Command element said that since the orchards are on private Palestinian land, trees cannot be cut down; therefore, it was decided to build a concrete wall. [passage omitted]

Soldiers Said 'Easy Targets' at Many Gaza Sites

TA2211130394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The head of the army's Southern Command, Major General Sha'ul Mufaz, says that protection has been set up at 35 Israeli Army outposts in the Gaza Strip against suicide attacks. But, appearing before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee this morning, Gen. Mufaz said the army is making all its decisions in the Gaza Strip based on the agreement between Israel and the PLO, and soldiers are faced with many dangers. David Ze'ev reports:

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[Begin recording] [Ze'ev] Southern Commander Maj. Gen. Sha'ul Mufaz says the dangers to Israeli soldiers in the Gaza Strip are many and that Netzarim is not the most dangerous spot. What has happened at Netzarim, Gen. Mufaz said, could happen in dozens of other places in the Strip. There are, he said, easy targets; this, according to sources at this morning's closed-door meeting. The southern commander would not go as far as to say that he was unhappy with the constraints imposed by the Israel-PLO accord, which details the arrangements at the Netzarim junction, but others in the committee, like Likud Knesset Member [MK] Ari'el Sharon, did:

[Sharon] The problem is not if the Israel Defense Forces [IDF] do know how to build fortified or defensive positions. The IDF has enough experience how to do that, but they are restricted by the agreement that was signed between the Israeli Government and 'Arafat, and that prevents them to build there or to give there the necessary protection to the Israeli soldiers that are standing there and facing great danger. And I am afraid that is not the end. We are going to face harder things in the future. [passage omitted] [end recording]

'Terrorists' Said To Smuggle Explosives From Egypt

TA2011134594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 20 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Explosives are being smuggled into the Gaza Strip from Egypt both via tunnels dug in the Rafah area and by sea. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that in today's cabinet meeting it was reported that these explosives were used by the suicide terrorist in Tel Aviv and in the Netzarim attack last week.

In today's cabinet session Ministers Ora Namir and Ya'ir Tzaban said the Netzarim settlement should be evacuated. Yosi Sarid said as much after the cabinet session, and Knesset Member Ran Kohen told Qol Yisra'el that Netzarim is a liability that exacts an unnecessary toll of casualties. He also urged the evacuation of the settlement. [passage omitted]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Foreign Ministry Denies Naming Ambassador to Israel

JN2311093794 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 23 Nov 94 pp 1, 15

[Report by Nasir 'Arif]

[FBIS Translated Text] Responsible Foreign Ministry sources have denied that the Ministry issued a decision naming the Jordanian ambassador to Israel.

Referring to the article contained in the Jordanian-Israeli peace accord that deals with the exchange of diplomatic representation between the two countries, the sources told AL-ASWAQ that, according to diplomatic norms, the appointment of ambassadors takes place through official channels. In other words, a state asks another about its opinion regarding the ambassador to be appointed before his name is announced.

The sources said that according this, the Jordanian Government will announce the name of the Jordanian ambassador soon after the official procedures are completed.

On reports that Dr. Marwan al-Mu'ashshir, official media spokesman for the Jordanian delegation to the peace negotiations, has been named Jordan's ambassador to the State of Israel, the sources told AL-ASWAQ that Dr. Marwan al-Mu'ashshir is a figure well known to all. However, this cannot prompt the Foreign Ministry to confirm a report about his appointment unless an official decision is issued in this regard.

In a report from Amman, REUTERS cited Jordanian officials as saying that Dr. al-Mu'ashshir was nominated as Jordan's first ambassador to Israel. These officials added that His Majesty King Husayn chose al-Mu'ashshir from among many candidates to fill this sensitive position. He himself offered him this position during a meeting late last Monday.

According to the sources, al-Mu'ashshir officially accepted the offer yesterday. REUTERS cited the Jordanian Foreign Ministry as saying that it still has not sent the official nomination of al- Mu'ashshir to Israel. However, it is expected to do so by Friday. Meanwhile, Israel has not presented a candidate to fill the position of its ambassador to Jordan.

Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah, head of the Jordanian peace negotiators and Jordan's ambassador to Washington, said that Dr. al-Mu'ashshir is decisive and is a decision-maker of the first class. He added that al-Mu'ashshir gained great credibility and an excellent reputation among the media and various political circles as a spokesman for the delegation and head of the Jordanian Information Office.

Joint Transport Committee With Israel Meets

JN2211214794 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Jordanian-Israeli Transport Committee met at the Coral Beach Hotel in al-'Aqabah today. The meeting was led by Dr. Durayd Mahasinah, director general of the Ports Authority, on the Jordanian side, and by Mr. (Schniller), Israeli deputy transportation minister, on the Israeli side.

The conferees discussed the issues of aviation, the air corridor between the two countries, joint uses of air services and airports, maritime transportation for small vehicles, and touristic transportation between Jordan and Israel.

The committee will continue meetings tomorrow to finalize some topics listed on the joint agenda.

'First-Ever' Shipping Agreement Reached

TA2311074094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 23 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Israel and Jordan have reached a first-ever agreement on shipping. It will allow free passage of small vessels on both sides of the Gulf of Elat.

The two states will also mutually recognize shipping licenses between the two countries and will establish permanent radio communications between the control towers in Elat and al-'Aqabah.

Official Comments on Tomatoes Exported to Israel

JN2211215494 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Salim al-Lawzi, director general of the Agricultural Marketing Corporation [AMC], has denied the local press reports and comments that the Israeli authorities refused to allow Jordanian tomatoes into Israel because they did not meet the technical and health specifications.

In a telephone conversation with him a short while ago, Dr. al-Lawzi said that, to date, only five tonnes of Jordanian tomatoes have been exported to Israel via the Jordan Valley crossing on Sunday. This shipment was not rejected or returned to Jordan for any of the reasons mentioned by the local newspapers.

He pointed out that the AMC does not permit the exportation of any Jordanian vegetables or fruit to any party unless they pass checks which should verify that they meet the specifications of the importing country.

Israeli Officials Discuss Development Projects

JN2311081994 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 23 Nov 94 pp 1, 3

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman (Petra)—Jordanian and Israeli officials on Tuesday held talks at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) on how to prepare the ground for discussions on the development of the Jordan Rift Valley as provided for under the Jordan-Israel peace treaty.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

The officials from the two sides formed a steering committee which will tackle joint schemes in the valley, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

Mundhir Haddadin, who heads the Jordanians side to the steering meeting, said in a statement after the first session that the committee approved of the manner in which Jordan and Israel would approach the European Union (EU) at a meeting to be held soon with EU officials to request financing of joint Jordanian-Israeli schemes in the Jordan Valley.

The two sides also agreed on terms of reference for the plenary committee and on preparing for terms of reference for the committee's work on the development of the Gulf of Aqaba for tourist purposes and for allowing other parties like Egypt to be involved in the development of the al-'Aqabah coast for tourism purposes, according to Dr. Haddadin.

Mr. Odin Afran from the Israeli foreign ministry, who heads the Israeli side, said that the Jordan Valley region would witness major development through projects in which the private sector would have a key role.

Mr. Afran said that the two sides set up sub-committees to deal with technical and financial matters related to the proposed schemes in the Jordan Valley.

Meanwhile the Jordanian-Israeli transport committee met Tuesday at al-'Aqabah's Coral Beach Hotel and discussed cooperation in aviation and the air corridor between the two countries.

The committee, meeting under the co-chairmanship of Director General of the Ports Corporation Durayd Mahasinah and the Israeli deputy transport minister, also dwelt on marine transport and tourism. The committee will resume its meeting Wednesday.

Minister on Need To Amend Laws After Treaty

JN1911095194 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 19 Nov 94 pp 1, 20

[Report by Mahir Abu-Tayr]

[FBIS Translated Text] 'Abd-al-Baqi Jammu, minister of state for legal and parliamentary affairs, has said it is necessary to send several laws to Parliament for amendment to have them conform with the peace treaty that Jordan and Israel recently signed.

Jammu told AL-DUSTUR that laws should not be contradictory because we deal with them as a state and they should be uniform. He added: It is inconceivable that a treaty is signed between Jordan and Israel and laws that ban any dealing with the Israelis at any level whatsoever remain in force.

Regarding how and when these laws will be referred to Parliament, Jammu said that the date for submitting these laws has not been set, as yet.

On what laws will be referred Jammu said that they have not been specified but they include all the laws that previously had to do with contacts with the enemy.

AL-DUSTUR has learned that laws on trade, tourism, contacts, and others will be submitted at the same time.

On another level, an Islamic deputy has told AL-DUSTUR that the Islamic Action Front, through its deputies in the House of Representatives, will oppose any amendments to these laws as it had opposed the peace treaty. He said the opposition will be on two levels; rejection of any amendments in the first place, and enacting stiff conditions, limitations, and penalties to restrict as much as possible these dealings which will be backed by laws when they are amended.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Al-Hirawi on Peace Talks, Syria, U.S. Position

NC2111181094 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 14 Nov 94 pp 3, 4

[Interview with President Ilyas al-Hirawi by Faysal Salman, Ibrahim al-Amin, and George Bakasini at B'abda Palace in Beirut; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [AL-SAFIR] How would you depict Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad as you know him?

[Al-Hirawi] He is a wise man and a true friend of all his friends. If a friend of his makes a mistake, al-Asad takes it upon himself to find a way out and to make things easier. He is more than a faithful friend.

At the Arab level, I can testify before God and before everyone who still speaks Arabic that had President al-Asad not been here today, nothing of the Arab dignity would have been left. When we talk about the capital of the Umayyads [the first dynasty of Islam that took Damascus as its capital], we talk about the capital ruled by President al-Asad.

At the Lebanese level, al-Asad is working for Lebanon's full independence. The first Syrian document acknowledging Lebanon's existence is the document of the joint treaty. I do not know of any Syrian Government that had recognized the independence of Lebanon before.

[AL-SAFIR] Some still oppose this relationship with Syria and criticize the signed agreements and the issue of laborers.

[Al-Hirawi] Some time ago, someone visited me and said: You don't want to end your term before selling the Orontes River, right?

First, I would like to ask: Who has ever discussed Lebanon's share of this river since the days of the Ottomans? This is a river with an international status. It flows 30 kilometers in Lebanon, 450 kilometers in Syria, and it ends in Iskenderun in Turkey. Who said that we have the rights to this kind of river? Rights are given to those along all the banks of the river.

[AL-SAFIR] Some say that Lebanon was entitled to a bigger share.

[Al-Hirawi] Who said that? In past negotiations, the share was set at 60 million cubic meters. Lebanon agreed, and then they [not further identified] retreated. Now, we have taken 80 million cubic meters. [passage omitted]

[AL-SAFIR] What will Lebanon's future role be, and what do you think are the most prominent challenges Lebanon must face up to?

[Al-Hirawi] You have the right to ask this question. Peace must be established between peoples, not between rulers.

We saw a peace agreement between Egypt and Israel in 1977. But has there been any real normalization between the two countries? Nothing.

If we want to rehabilitate our country and role, we must consolidate confidence in our role. We should not launch a criticism campaign to weaken our confidence in ourselves, in our future role, and in our ability to confront the major challenges after peace.

I do not think normalization can take place between the Jews and the Arab people in 20 or 30 years. People have grown up with mutual hatred.

The Israelis have begun reconciliation with the Palestinians in the hope that the latter will be a vehicle to the other Arab countries. This compels us to develop and strengthen our programs to make the Lebanese stronger so that we can prevent any form of normalization. This necessitates that we develop our educational and technical programs. I want you to check the southern Lebanese presence abroad in many areas—teachers, doctors, cooks, public relations officers, and all other jobs. [passage omitted]

[AL-SAFIR] Your Excellency, let us speak about the negotiations and the proposal you have recently made.

[Al-Hirawi] We got the answer to the proposal; namely, that the Israelis do not recognize Resolution 425. We told them: Thank you, do not recognize it; may God grant you a longer life. On Saturday, we went to Damascus, and once again President al-Asad and I agreed: [Israeli withdrawal from] the Golan without [withdrawal from] south Lebanon is unacceptable, and the south without the Golan is unacceptable.

[AL-SAFIR] Does that mean that your proposal was meant to expose the Israeli position?

[Al-Hirawi] There is some fuss in this country. Many people are complaining that Lebanon has no role to play in the negotiations. So we said: Alright, here is a proposal. I knew what the answer would be. We made the proposal, so what was the answer? Yitzhaq Rabin summoned the Foreign Affairs Committee and the Defense Committee and said Security Council Resolution 425 is nonexistent. If Resolution 425 is nonexistent, then what is the UN Interim Force in Lebanon doing in the south? And on the basis of which resolution did it come to the region? Has it come pursuant to a decision by [AL-SAFIR chief editor] Talal Salman? What was the reaction of the United Nations? The international force is here upon a UN resolution, and the United Nations no longer dares to talk about Resolution 425 in its General Assembly meetings. Why was the resolution issued then, and why are resolutions implemented in other regions, Haiti for instance?

When we received Rabin's answer, we knew. Well, we are not a strong country, and every day we hear [French Foreign Minister] Alain Juppe saying that Lebanon will

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

be lost—thanks to him. The Germans tried to mention Resolution 425 in the Casablanca economic summit, but were not allowed.

There is a man whom we described as wise and able. We went to him, there in Damascus, and said to him: This is my hand, I put it in yours; indeed, I tie them both with a steel chain that cannot be untied; Syria and Lebanon together.

[AL-SAFIR] And Washington? You received a message from President Clinton a few days ago?

[Al-Hirawi] Yes. And there was no mention of Resolution 425 in it.

[AL-SAFIR] Yes, but the Americans were originally the ones who issued the resolution.

[Al-Hirawi] The Americans are the ones who issued the resolution. They are the ones who signed it and presented it to the Security Council. And now, what is their stand? Why is the United Nations paying millions of dollars for emergency forces? They claim that the Lebanese Government is incompetent. We are ready and prepared to send 30,000 soldiers to be helped by the UN Interim Force in Lebanon in their deployment. If the Israelis claim that they are afraid for their security in southern Lebanon, the Lebanese Government is capable of providing this security. The Israelis have tried to dodge the issue. They have talked about the obstacles, the Antoine Lahd issue, and other matters. This is not right. Lebanon has a decision stipulating an unconditional and unrestricted Israeli withdrawal [from southern Lebanon].

[AL-SAFIR] Mr. President, do you still stand by your proposal?

[Al-Hirawi] Yes. I still adhere to it. I have an inheritance, which I will not concede; this is Resolution 425. However, I will not take chances once again of proposing the idea of the security-political committee. I will not give them that satisfaction.

[AL-SAFIR] So the proposal was merely an attempt to uncover the Israeli stand?

[Al-Hirawi] I was expecting such a stand from them. The Lebanese delegation to the negotiations went to Washington 12 times in 3 years. During every session, we were discovering new Israeli methods of evasion and dodging.

[AL-SAFIR] By the way, did former U.S. Ambassador in Beirut Mark Hambley pay the price for his stand supporting Resolution 425?

[Al-Hirawi] This question should be put to the Americans. We have no information at our disposal confirming the reports that have been circulating about him, which said that he had serious health problems. In fact, the contrary is true since he is working in his office at the State Department. According to what I have heard from the Task Force for Lebanon delegation, he attended their function and delivered a speech bidding Senator George Mitchell farewell.

[AL-SAFIR] This means that the Lebanese Government does not have a clear explanation for the reasons that led to recalling Hambley and keeping him in Washington.

[Al-Hirawi] All we have heard is that he has been recalled to Washington as a result of a medical report he had previously sent there. In Washington, they saw that it was better for him to return.

[AL-SAFIR] Mr. President, has any actual progress taken place in the negotiations in the past three years?

[Al-Hirawi] None whatsoever. They tried to apply the principle of "divide and rule." Lebanon went to the negotiations with an open heart. We adopted all the resolutions. Had our objective been to place obstacles, we would not have adopted this stand. Lebanon has nothing to do with Resolution 242 and 338. However, we adhered to the Arab stand and solidarity, and the Arab group position. Through the Arab group, we presented Resolution 425. At the same time, we were completely committed to the Arab brothers, through thick and thin. We followed the meetings of the cordon states, the last of which convened in Beirut. We all had dinner together. The day after, the Palestinians unilaterally signed an agreement with Israel, followed by the Jordanians soon after.

[AL-SAFIR] Therefore, what is the truth about reports that there is progress on the Lebanese and Syrian tracks?

[Al-Hirawi] I say in response to that, that whoever cannot help Lebanon, mourns it. I wish to ask the European Union [EU] countries a question here. What is the role of the EU countries? Envoys come to Lebanon and make statements about their support for Resolution 425. Germans, Englishmen, Frenchmen. It is all very nice. But how do they translate this stand to us? Does the translation lie in declaring their fears that Lebanon will become the scapegoat of the settlement? We wish to set Mr. Alain Juppe's mind at ease and thank him for his sympathy.

[AL-SAFIR] Maronite Patriarch Nasrallah Sfayr is speaking with the same logic.

[Al-Hirawi] I am not Patriarch Sfayr. You have to ask him. I answer for myself and out of my belief in my position. Lebanon will adhere to its conviction that the Lebanese and Syrian tracks are in parallel. Neither of the two states will take a unilateral stand.

[AL-SAFIR] Therefore, Lebanon's guarantee lies in Syria's stand?

[Al-Hirawi] Where should I create another guarantee from? We looked around and presented our case to many sides, and nobody even bothered to say hello to us.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[AL-SAFIR] It seemed that Israel's response to your proposal was not an outright rejection.

[Al-Hirawi] I want Israel to withdraw from south Lebanon unconditionally, in accordance with Resolution 425. We will not accept any prevarication. So far, the Israelis have concluded two agreements. Does the agreement with the Palestinians provide clarity in its application? No. There is no clarity. The Israelis want to instigate the Palestinians against each other so that they may fight. The Israelis concluded an agreement with Jordan. Let us wait and see what happens in Jordan. Why should Lebanon fall into the same sin?

[AL-SAFIR] The Americans say that your proposal is positive and that they are holding contacts about it.

[Al-Hirawi] What does Israel want from us more than maintaining security? We say that we are ready to maintain security if you withdraw. After your withdrawal, not a single shot will be fired.

[AL-SAFIR] But Rabin wants a peace agreement?

[Al-Hirawi] We will not accept any agreement before the withdrawal. Resolution 425 does not say that Lebanon is forced to sign a peace treaty with Israel and normalize relations with it. Lebanon cannot agree to a treaty alone.

[AL-SAFIR] The Israelis may claim that there is already a link between the Madrid conference and the peace process.

[Al-Hirawi] Look, my dear sir; some say that Christopher has not come, so and so has not gone, etc.... Are there Israeli settlements in south Lebanon? There are no settlements. We have an Israeli occupation. This is the difference. The Rabin government claims that it has no ambitions in Lebanon, and before it the Shamir government said the same thing. The Israelis complain and demand security. We are prepared to maintain security, but a peace treaty will be as part of the group. Lebanon will not sign alone.

[AL-SAFIR] Now Lebanon is in agreement with Syria and you reached an understanding with President al-Asad during the recent summit and....

[Al-Hirawi, interrupting] President al-Asad and I have been in agreement from the start. Our position regarding Resolution 425 was made clear in the days of President George Bush in 1991, during a public speech at the UN, during James Baker's visit, during two visits by Christopher, and with [U.S. State Department Under Secretary] Pelletreau, but in vain.

[AL-SAFIR] Is there is a difference between the Bush and Clinton administrations?

[Al-Hirawi] In foreign policy there is no difference.

[AL-SAFIR] As part of a comprehensive solution and if negotiations are resumed, would Lebanon and Syria participate under a joint delegation?

[Al-Hirawi] The Syrians have proposed that Lebanon head the joint delegation. But where would we go?

[AL-SAFIR] To Washington to resume the talks, as Syrian Minister Faruq al-Shar' has stated.

[Al-Hirawi] Wait, wait. We have sought clarification about al-Shar's statement. Let me clarify this to avoid any ambiguity. We were told that resuming the negotiations depends on what Christopher will bring with him.

[AL-SAFIR] If he comes?

[Al-Hirawi] No, no. Don't put me in the position of fortune teller. We will be like Thomas. We will not believe unless we place a finger on the wound. We will wait for Christopher. In light of what he will be bringing, we will reach an understanding with Damascus about going back [to the talks], in one or two delegations or not at all.

[AL-SAFIR] If Christopher returns, would he visit Beirut?

[Al-Hirawi] I do not know. If he wants to, he is welcome. We are able to receive him, unless he believes that security here is not stable. We have told them before that we challenge them about security, then someone fired at the White House.

[AL-SAFIR] It was said that you sent him (laughter).

[Al-Hirawi] Yes, so I heard (laughter).

[AL-SAFIR] So, Lebanon and Syria will not take part in the negotiations unless there is evidence that progress could be made.

[Al-Hirawi] Of course, otherwise we would be just going for the ride and to spend money.

[AL-SAFIR] But some suggest that Lebanon should take part in the multilateral talks. What are the drawbacks for Lebanon's participation?

[Al-Hirawi] If there is no progress on the Lebanese and Syrian tracks, then may God bless them with the multilateral talks.

[AL-SAFIR] But the multilateral talks are discussing an issue of importance to Lebanon; that is, the question of the Palestinian refugees. Some are afraid that a solution to this issue could be at Lebanon's expense.

[Al-Hirawi] If they decide to resolve the problem of the Palestinian refugees at the expense of Lebanon, we will ask the Palestinians to leave Lebanon, and let the Arab states shoulder this responsibility. Lebanon is already burdened with its own citizens and is hosting the Palestinian brothers for humanitarian reasons. Not a single Lebanese approves of resettlement. Let Yasir 'Arafat kindly give them a nationality and then they can leave.

[AL-SAFIR] As part of these humanitarian reasons, don't they deserve some labor rights in Lebanon?

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[Al-Hirawi] We are looking for jobs for the Lebanese. If there is a surplus of jobs, they are welcome.

U.S.-Israeli Talks on Pullout Detailed

NC2211143194 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] According to exclusive information from our correspondent in Washington, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has agreed with President Ilyas al-Hirawi's latest proposal and a phased withdrawal from the south on two conditions. Colleague George Yazbik has the details:

[Begin Yazbik recording] According to information available to the Voice of Lebanon, the U.S.-Israeli talks held by President Clinton and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in Washington produced several conclusions on two issues—bilateral relations and the peace process.

On bilateral relations, Rabin emerged satisfied with their continuation or, rather, with increased U.S. aid to Israel. Rabin will hold consultations with influential Republican figures in Congress to guarantee the aid.

On the peace process, the two men emerged with the following results: On the Lebanese-Israeli track, the discussion focused on Hizballah's status. The dominant view here is that President Clinton has in his pocket an Israeli agreement in principle on a gradual withdrawal from south Lebanon, thus accepting an amended version of President al-Hirawi's proposal after a clear stance announced by the official Lebanese authorities to halt Hizballah activities and guarantee security in south Lebanon.

Upcoming U.S.-Lebanese contacts will concentrate on this very issue. Some circles here who are very reticent on this point do not rule out final contacts with Tehran to help find a solution. Washington might ask a European country to hold such contacts but it will not be France, as a U.S. State Department official said.

On the Palestinian-Israeli track, the tension between Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and 'Arafat was discussed by Clinton and Rabin and Rabin was given the green light to intervene militarily in Gaza in extremely dire circumstances.

Finally, on the Syrian-Israeli track, the issue of Israeli withdrawal from the Golan seems to be almost settled and contacts now deal with making practical arrangements after both sides announce their positions—possibly during the next round of negotiations, the date for which has not been fixed—accepting the deployment of U.S. buffer forces in the Golan. [end recording]

Shaykh Opposes Opening Marine Blast Case

NC2211161094 Beirut AL-DIYAR in Arabic 18 Nov 94 p 17

[Interview with Shaykh 'Abd-al-Amir Qabalan, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shiite Council, by Hala Bayraq and Arkan al-Rimah; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [AL-DIYAR] Is the opening of the Marine file part of an international plan to strike at the Resistance?

[Qabalan] I consider it a test, because, on hearing the news, I inquired about the truth of the issue from officials in the security forces and they said they knew nothing about it. They said no official warrant has been issued to open the case. It is merely an air bubble, which has so far remained a news item in the media.

I think that after this uproar these files will be frozen until the time is opportune. Still, if they want to open these files, let them do so, because most if not all of those who carried out the operations are martyred and the state could try to call them to account in the grave, as some countries used to do.

All our graves are full of martyrs. Let them try anyone they like. But I wonder why those who were the cause of negligence and chaos in the anomalous conditions experienced by the Lebanese people are not brought to trial. Rather they seize any opportunity to try those who preserved the nation's honor and challenged the difficulties so that Lebanon might remain a country of culture and Arabism and the country of both religions—Christianity and Islam.

Should there be any insistence on opening these files, this may lead to the trial of the Resistance. If we let that happen we would be like anyone who kept silent about his own right. If we remain silent, as I told you, the martyrs and those who have gone against Israel will be convicted. In this case there will be no distinction among the state's request to try those who blew up the Marine headquarters, those who blew up the headquarters of the military commander in Tyre, and our heroes who blew up cars they were driving themselves in Israeli camps. [passage omitted]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Argentine Government Delegation Continues Visit

Al-Asad Meets Counterpart Menem

JN2211204094 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] President Hafiz al-Asad and Argentine President Carlos Menem resumed their talks at the People's Palace at 1115 today. The meeting was attended by Vice President 'Abd-al- Halim Khaddam, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and Argentine Foreign Minister Dr. Guido Di Tella. During this meeting, the two sides completed discussions on issues that were raised during yesterday's talks between the two presidents. The discussions dealt with the situation in the Middle East, the peace process, and the efforts to make this process attain its objective of achieving a just, comprehensive peace. They also dealt with developing and advancing bilateral relations as well as international issues.

The meeting was followed by an expanded one which was attended by Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade; Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs; a number of senior Foreign Ministry and Economy Ministry officials, and the Syrian charge d'affaires in Buenos Aires. The meeting was also attended by members of the Argentine delegation accompanying President Menem.

During this meeting, the two sides reviewed bilateral relations and prospects of promoting them in various fields. They were informed about the results of the bilateral meetings between the Argentine and Syrian delegations. The two sides expressed satisfaction with the results of the meetings and with the work that has been done along the path of cooperation to promote bilateral relations and cooperation.

Argentine Foreign Minister on Policy

PY2311023294 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1920 GMT 22 Nov 94

[Report by special correspondents]

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, Syria, 22 Nov (TELAM)—Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella emphatically denied today that the Argentine position favoring a return of the land occupied by Israel during the 1967 and 1973 wars might cause a rift with the Israeli Government.

In remarks to TELAM, Di Tella emphasized: "In no way will there be any rift in the relations established between Argentina and Israel."

The foreign minister added: "The ties (with Israel) have always been based on Israel's recognition that Argentina has supported the UN Security Council resolutions that now seem to be encouraging the peace process."

Asked if a rapprochement with the Arab world through Syria is important for Argentine foreign policy, Di Tella noted that Argentina does not "like having poor relations with anyone, especially when there is no real reason."

Di Tella pointed out: "In addition to the Syrian claim that we are supporting, what we also object to involves the challenges to the existence and security of the State of Israel."

Di Tella emphasized that currently the peace process "is moving toward mutual and full recognition, as happened with Jordan."

The foreign minister indicated that Syria is very satisfied with the Argentine stand raised by the president yesterday.

Di Tella noted: "During his meeting with President al-Asad, Menem made it clear that this has been a longstanding position, a position that has never changed an inch."

Di Tella explained: "The Argentine position, as expressed by the president, has remained unchanged since the UN Security Council's Resolutions 242 and 338 were voted on."

The two UN Security Council resolutions established a return to the historical borders in exchange for a full commitment to security and mutual recognition of the countries in this area.

The foreign minister said Syria's good reception of the Argentine position was demonstrated by the local newspapers, all of which are owned by the state and linked to the ruling party.

Di Tella added: "Sometimes the repetition of the contents of a resolution at a different time allows it to achieve renewed significance."

Concerning new prospects for trade between Argentina and Syria, Di Tella noted: "There are two favorable and convergent processes."

The foreign minister pointed out: "In Argentina deregulation and privatization has been fully implemented, and Syria is also treading this path. Syria has not advanced as much as we have, but it has a private sector that is in fact in full expansion."

Di Tella believes that the existence of a business community of Syrian origin in Argentina will help to enhance "family and personal ties."

Di Tella indicated that Argentina is supplying technical assistance to the Arab Republic of Syria in the agricultural field, through the National Institute of Agricultural-Livestock Technology (INTA).

Di Tella added that, in private conversations, Syrian Economy Minister Muhammad al-'Imadi has expressed

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

great interest in the Argentine economic transformation process, and has requested information on this issue.

Di Tella told TELAM that on 23 November he will travel to Brussels to participate in "a meeting between the four Mercosur [Common Market of the South] foreign ministers and European Union Secretary Jacques Delors to review the initial steps for establishing a free trade area."

Di Tella indicated that this "will be the first formal meeting" to advance on this issue. He emphasized that in Corfu "a very important declaration was released on this issue, but this is the first formal negotiation between the two sides."

Cooperation Accords Signed

JN2311154994 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 23 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] At the People's Palace this morning, an executive program for cultural cooperation was signed between the Syrian Arab Republic and the Republic of Argentina for the years 1993, [year as heard] 1994, and 1995.

The program was signed for Syria by Foreign Minister Faruq al- Shar' and for Argentina by Foreign Minister Dr. Guido Di Tella. Al- Shar' and Dr. Di Tella also signed three agreements in agriculture, veterinary medicine, and plant care.

Al-Zu'bi Stresses 'Just, Comprehensive' Peace

JN2211175194 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Under the patronage of President Hafiz al-Asad, the 13th World Trade Unions Conference opened in the al-Umawiyin Palace of Conferences this morning. The conference is being hosted by the General Federation of the Syrian Trade Unions from 22 to 26 November. President Hafiz al-Asad was represented by Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi in opening the conference. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi delivered a speech in which he conveyed the greetings of the president to the participants and said that the Syrian people and leadership were proud of hosting the World Trade Unions Conference, which has extended great services to the working class throughout the world, defends their rights, and is working to enable them to make social gains and to reinforce their status. [passage omitted]

Al-Zubi said that Syria had not waged wars and offered sacrifices out of love for wars but in defense of man, rights, dignity, and land and that Syria has been exerting every effort to establish a just and comprehensive peace based on international legitimacy, UN resolutions, particularly Resolutions 242 and 338, and the principle of withdrawal from land in exchange for peace.

He also said that Syria has approved the U.S. initiative because it responds to the requirements of true comprehensive peace based on international legitimacy, the will of the international community, Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and the Madrid formula. He added: During several rounds of talks in Washington, Syria presented several positive initiatives, described as historic by many countries in general and the U.S. sponsor in particular. However, Israel has not yet responded to these initiatives.

The representative of the president also said: Syria believed that partial and unilateral solutions would never lead to lasting peace. Past and present developments prove this. Therefore, unilateral deals with this or that party have not brought any peace. On the contrary, they have created serious complications and, or tension. He stressed that in order for peace to be true and lasting, it should be just, comprehensive, and based on international legitimacy, UN resolutions, the will of the international community, and the formula of withdrawal from all the occupied territories in exchange for peace. He said that to Syria, peace has always been a strategic option, but not any peace at any price.

What Syria wants, al-Zu'bi added, is the peace of the courageous, as President Hafiz al-Asad put it—a peace in which no party will feel it sustained a loss, was insulted, or that its rights were harmed. He said: Syria will exert honest and serious efforts to achieve such a peace. We still believe that such a peace can be achieved by implementing Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 on southern Lebanon. Only then, will the current conflict that has been raging in the region for about half a century, as well as current tragedies, shedding of blood, and wars end and stability and security be enjoyed by everybody. [passage omitted]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Afghanistan

President Meets Afghan Refugees From Pakistan

LD2211211794 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The President's Press Office reported to the BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY that esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, the country's president and chairman of the High Council of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, this morning received a peace delegation of Afghan refugees living in Pakistan. The meeting was also attended by the members of the State's High Council.

At this meeting, the president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan first spoke about the Islamic and peace-seeking objectives of the Islamic State of Afghanistan and other advantageous and comprehensive efforts. He added: We have announced time and again that we support any initiative for the consolidation of peace, national unity, and restoration of law and order in the country. Therefore, endeavors by you—dear and sympathetic brothers—are fully supported by us.

Esteemed Hojjat-ol Eslam Sayd Mohammad 'Ali Jawid, esteemed engineer Ahmad Shah Ahmadzai, Hojjat-ol Eslam Alemi Balkhi, and esteemed Rahmatollah Wahedyar then spoke and confirmed the statement made by the president of our country.

A number of the delegation's members then spoke on behalf of the others and presented a two-article draft plan concerning the restoration of a permanent cease-fire and opening of highways, which was approved by the State's High Council.

Hekmatyar Forces Ignore WHO Cease-Fire Agreement

LD2211184294 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A responsible security source reported to the military correspondent from the BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY that despite calls by the World Health Organization asking for adherence to the cease-fire during the mother and child vaccination campaign, the Golboddin [Hekmatyar] militia this morning fired rockets and mines shells on the residential areas of Kabul city. Neither loss of life or material damage has been reported.

Hekmatyar Hopes For Islamic Elected Government

LD2211180594 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother Hekmatyar, leader of the country's Islamic revolution and Mojahed Amir of the Hezb-e Eslami of Afghanistan, was interviewed yesterday morning by the political commentator of the Radio-TV Message of Freedom.

The reporter of the Radio Message of Freedom reports that Brother Hekmatyar answered in detail questions raised by the reporter on the political and military situation of the country. Hekmatyar said: We do not believe in military (?victory) and we are not after the elimination of any parties. We believe in the presence of parties and we hope to have an Islamic elected government via election.

Brother Hekmatyar added: I say to the coalition leaders that they would not gain anything by fighting and [word indistinct]. In replying to another question, Brother Hekmatyar said: We are hopeful for the future; God willing, the fighting will soon end and a nationwide peace is consolidated in the country.

Brother Hekmatyar added: [Words indistinct] the coalition has endeavored to create internal and external discord and misunderstanding among the members of the high coordination council. However, they have not succeeded in gaining anything from their endeavors. Brother Hekmatyar said: The members of the High Coordination Council believe fully and trust each other; and with confidence [three words indistinct] discharge their duties.

Esteemed Ustad Abdol Jabar Khalid [title indistinct] and Mohammad Sabur Dawar, broadcaster and commentator of the Radio-TV Message of Freedom, and Mohammad Nazir Besharat, in charge of the Radio Message of Freedom, were present when the interview took place. The rest of this interview [words indistinct] and the full proceedings of this interview will be relayed tonight by the television of the Message of Freedom.

Bangladesh

High-Level Meeting Held on Bosnian Situation

BK2211160594 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A high-level meeting was held in Dhaka today to review the latest situation in Bihac in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Foreign Minister A.S.M. Mustafizur Rahman was in the chair.

The meeting expressed concern on the Bangladeshi contingent which is currently deployed there under the UN protection forces. The meeting, however, took note with satisfaction that in response to Bangladesh's persistent request, the UN Security Council has taken concrete steps to protect the UN designated safe areas and to ensure the security and safety of the UN protection forces contingent in Bihac. The meeting welcomed the NATO air strikes on Serb-held Udbina air fields in Croatia. The meeting was apprised that the government is in constant and direct communications with Bangladeshi contingent commander in Bihac. According to

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

latest information, there has been no casualty of any Bangladeshi troops under the UN peace force in Bihac and they are all well.

Zia Condoles Death of State Education Minister

BK2211143194 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh External Service in English 1230 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has expressed her deep shock and profound grief at the passing away of State Minister for Education, Principal Mohammad Yunus Khan.

In a message of condolence, the prime minister, who is also the leader of the house, said with the death of Principal Yunus Khan, Bangladesh has lost a far-sighted political leader and social worker and the Bangladesh Nationalist Party [BNP] a dedicated leader. She prayed to the almighty Allah for the eternal peace of the departed soul of Principal Khan.

The prime minister flew to Barisal Tuesday [22 November] to express her deep shock and heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved family of late Principal Khan. Begum Zia visited the residence of the late Principal Khan and condoled the members of the bereaved family. The prime minister laid wreaths at the mortal remains of the departed soul. Deputy leader of the house Professor Badrudduja Chowdhury, Religious Affairs Minister Keramat Ali, State Minister for Water Resources Mosharraf Hossain Shahjahan, and local MP's were present.

The namaz-i-janaza [funeral prayers] of Pricipal Mohammad Yunus Khan was held at Barisal Zila [revenue district] school premises on Tuesday afternoon. It was followed by a second namaz-i-janaza at the (Bakrbaz) thana [police station area] headquarters. His body was buried at the Islamia College premises [words indistinct] according to his (?wish). Mr. Mohammad Yunus Khan, who was also vice president of BNP [Bangladesh Nationalist Party], had been suffering from lung cancer.

India

Bombs, Explosives Seized From Election Candidates

BK2211131994 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Andhra Pradesh, the Congress-I and Telugu Desam Party [TDP] candidates [for state assembly elections] in Proddutur assembly constituency in Cuddapa District were arrested today after seizure of country-made bombs. The district collector told our Hyderabad correspondent that the brother of the Congress-I nominee and the son of the TDP candidate were also arrested. The police seized 185 bombs and a huge quantity of explosives.

Nine Militants Killed in Kashmir Encounters

BK2311022194 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In the Kashmir valley, nine militants have been killed in two encounters with the security forces during the last 24 hours. Eight of them were killed at village Chowdara in Badgam District. They included five Pakistan-trained militants. In another incident an arrested militant was killed when police party escorting him was ambushed by another militant.

Editorial: Bhutto Trying To 'Buy Time' in Talks

BK2311093094 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 23 Nov 94 p 9

[Editorial: "Pakistan Shies Away"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pakistan's rejection of bilateral talks offered by Prime Minister Narasimha Rao will surprise very few because, at present, the Benazir regime is reeling under a fierce opposition onslaught after the fiasco over the Kashmir resolution at the United Nations. Any readiness to share a conference table is likely to strengthen the widespread apprehension that the Bhutto government might capitulate before India. What has made matters worse for Mrs Bhutto is that the opposition alone has not lambasted the Foreign Ministry for the diplomatic disaster at the UN General Assembly. Even the senior politician, Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, who resigned as leader of the Pakistan delegation when the Organisation of Islamic Conference [ICO] decided not to move the resolution, has demanded that both Foreign Minister Ahmad Asif Ali and Foreign Secretary Najmuddin Sheikh should be sacked. This has caused acute embarrassment for Mrs Bhutto. There could be no question of dismissing Mr Ali who belongs to the Junejo faction of the Pakistan Muslim League, a valued ally of the People's Party. Islamabad needs some time to organise itself against the campaign of Mr Nawaz Sharif who seems to feel that the Benazir government would collapse if he maintained sufficient pressure on it. The recent exchange of blows between People's Party and Muslim League legislators at President Leghari's address to the joint session of Parliament has brought relations between the ruling party and opposition to an all-time low. Kashmir in Pakistan today is a more partisan issue than ever before, and Mrs Bhutto is unlikely to respond to any gesture from New Delhi which Mr Nawaz Sharif will be quick to exploit.

The Bhutto government has apparently decided to buy time both in the hope of blunting the opposition campaign and raising popular hopes once again about the ability of the OIC to secure for Pakistan something marvelous on Kashmir. The OIC is scheduled to meet in Morocco in December, and Pakistan will make yet another attempt to get an OIC-sponsored resolution introduced in the UN. After the third consecutive diplomatic setback suffered by the Bhutto government, an

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

impression has been gaining ground in some quarters in Pakistan that the armed forces might feel compelled to intervene. The possibility could not be dismissed off-hand, for it is arguable that the armed forces' patience would run out when they feel that politicians have failed to carry out diplomatically the programme that the Inter-Services Intelligence [ISI] had set out for them.

The ISI's debacle over Kashmir could conceivably reduce its domination over Pakistan's politics, and it would desperately try to retain its role of the king-maker. The ISI is likely to keep up its pressure on the Bhutto government to shun talks with India. New Delhi apparently is destined to wait for sufficient international opinion to grow in favour of bilateral talks before Pakistan finds it impossible to avoid sitting with New Delhi across a table.

Paper Views Pakistan's Rejection of Talks

BK2311080594 Delhi THE PIONEER in English 23 Nov 94 p 8

[Editorial: "Islamabad Says No Again"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Pakistani Government's response to the Prime Minister, Mr PV Narasimha Rao's offer for bilateral talks, does not come as a surprise—by now, Islamabad's rejection of such offers has become a routine affair. But this does not detract from the importance of either Mr Narasimha Rao's gesture or its rude rejection; both of them carry a message for the international community, especially the Western countries which have taken it upon themselves to periodically comment on the Kashmir issue and sometimes actively seek to play the role of an honest broker in subcontinental affairs. Mr Rao's offer more so because it came so soon after Pakistan's latest attempt to take the Kashmir issue beyond the ambit of bilateral talks by seeking to move a resolution in the General Assembly, reiterates the known Indian position: New Delhi has been, and continues to be, committed to settling the Kashmir issue through bilateral discussions. On the other hand, the rejection of the offer has underscored the point, also repeatedly made by New Delhi, that Islamabad is less than keen on across-the-table negotiations.

Hence, Mr Narasimha Rao's offer and its rejection should further remove doubts abroad about the real positions of New Delhi and Islamabad. At a superficial level, this can be described as good diplomacy by India and poor diplomacy by Pakistan. But there is more to the issue than apparent diplomatic tactics and strategy. It is also a matter of conviction and moral strength. That India is convinced of the infallibility of its position is borne by its commitment to talks and its willingness to enter into a dialogue. Pakistan, obviously lacks both conviction and moral strength to fight its battle alone and, therefore, its stress on trying to create a multilateral forum, preferably one which is biased towards its position on Kashmir.

There is another aspect, too, that merits comment. Fighting for Kashmir is an article of faith for the Government in Delhi: Not only is it the jewel in secular India's crown, it is also the symbol of territorial and national integrity. For the regime in Islamabad, Kashmir is a useful tool to shape domestic public opinion. Every time there is a crisis at home, the Pakistani Government, more so the present one, raises the ante on Kashmir: The denunciation becomes shrill and the attack that hysterical. There is a third aspect, that of using Kashmir as a bargaining point in Pakistan's militaristic ambitions. This is more than apparent by the manner in which Islamabad has used Kashmir while trying to negotiate with Washington. These are not compulsions that dictate New Delhi's policy on Kashmir, enabling it to be more magnanimous. A point, however, needs to be made: Why must talks between India and Pakistan necessarily focus on Kashmir? A more pragmatic approach would be to discuss issues that are not contentious and thus create the right atmosphere for a meaningful dialogue on Kashmir. But this can happen only after Islamabad realises the futility of its single- point agenda.

ISI Reports on Joint Commission With Uzbekistan

BK2311100894 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 0830 GMT 23 Nov 94

["Press Release" issued in New Delhi on 22 November]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The second session of the Indo-Uzbek Joint Commission met on 21-22 November. The Indian side was led by Commerce Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee. The Uzbek side was led by the Uzbek deputy prime minister, O.T. Sultanov, who was also received by the external affairs minister, Shri Dinesh Singh.

2. [numbering as received] The discussions identified new areas where the two countries could cooperate successfully. These areas include science and technology , telecommunications and electronics, besides the more traditional ones such as food products, textile, pharmaceuticals and leather products. In order to keep up a steady momentum in these directions, the sides agreed to set up two sub-commissions, respectively on trade and economic cooperation, and science and technology. These decisions are reflected in the memorandum of understanding signed today by Shri Pranab Mukherjee and Mr. O.T. Sultanov.

3. The two sides also signed an agreement on opening a second line of credit of US dollars 10 million from the Government of India to the Government of Uzbekistan. The first credit line has been fully utilised and the second one will also be used to finance the setting up of joint ventures in Uzbekistan.

4. Mr. Sultanov is also scheduled to have high level meetings on Thursday, 24 November. He will also visit Agra and Bombay before returning to Uzbekistan.

New Delhi

22 November 1994

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Commentary Views Ties With Nepal After Elections

BK2211131794 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 22 Nov 94

[Commentary by G.N. Raina: "Elections in Nepal"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The snap poll called by Mr. G.P. Koirala has led to the emergence of the Communist Party of Nepal [CPN] as the single largest party followed by the ruling Nepali Congress and the Rashtriya Prajatantra Party—RPP. Hectic efforts are on in the Nepalese capital with the CPN, that is, UML [United Marxist-Leninist], seeking support of other parties in forming a coalition, while Mr. Koirala of the Nepali Congress has made it clear that his party would rather sit in the opposition than joining the coalition; RPP leaders expressed the desire not to strengthen the CPN-UML possibly because of the ideological differences with the Communists, particularly in their approach toward liberalization, nationalism, and the strengthening of democracy in the Himalayan kingdom. [sentence as heard]

Keeping in view that no party can form the government on its own, the wave of speculation runs from a coalition to a minority government. The upset victory by the Communists or rather with the [word indistinct] of the Nepali Congress may be attributed largely to the failure of the Koirala regime to come to grips with the expectations of the people. The grave disillusionment of the masses with the ruling party risen as it has dimmed by its factionalism and groupism to solve the economic problems led to the impressive electoral performances of the CPN-UML. [sentence as heard] There was no check on rising prices. There are reports that the price of food grains has risen three times and the electricity rates have become five-fold. It was, one could say, a negative vote against the government and not a positive vote for the Communists. Nepali Congress can be said to have committed the mistake of falling a victim to the infighting which was reflected even during the election time. The party also failed to realize that prodemocratic upsurge in the country has cast on it a very [word indistinct] of fulfilling the aspirations of the people. In a developing country like Nepal, the land reforms and the remuneration of the lot of the toiling masses should have received priority. The Communists, on the other hand, have promised people action in respect of land reforms and had assured the nation to give it what they call respite from the sufferings caused by misrule in the last three years.

New Delhi's relations with Kathmandu have been marked by cordiality and mutual goodwill and friendship for centuries now. How the new government in Nepal when formed would look at these ties, it is too early to say. The chairman of the Communist Party of Nepal, Mr. Manmohan Adhikari, has already hinted at a review of all the past treaties with India, in the event of his party coming to power. While in opposition, the CPN-UML took a tough line against New Delhi and even accused the ruling Nepali Congress of tilting toward India and thus compromising the country's sovereignty. But, whether the Communists will soften their anti-India rhetoric and adopt a realistic approach in dealing with India after assuming power, one has to wait and see. Mr. Adhikari, however, has thrown hints of a much-balanced relationship with both India and China. Both are our equal friends, he said. Mr. Adhikari, while talking of a possible review of the existing agreements with India, said that he would first visit India to review Indian-Nepalese relationship with the Indian Government under Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao in view of the fact that the ancient ties between our two neighbors have not been recapitulated for nearly five decades. Mr. Adhikari has also pointed out that he would discuss with the Indian prime minister all the problems affecting the relationship between the two neighbors. The CPN leader, it is obvious, would like to talk about issues like the water resources, commerce, and security perceptions. The Communists seem to be sour about the signing of the Indo-Nepal pact on the Dhanakpur River project in October 1992. They, however, are not against the pact as such. They want renegotiation of the terms or the pact as also its ratification by a two-thirds majority in the Parliament. All said and done, whoever forms the new government in Kathmandu must ensure that traditional, cordial ties with New Delhi are not disturbed.

Iran

Ministry Says NATO Strike on Udbina 'Not Enough'

LD2211133594 Tehran IRNA in English 1311 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 22, IRNA—Iran's Foreign Ministry today said that the NATO bombing of an airport used by Croatian Serbs on Monday [21 November] was not enough to contain Serb aggression.

"Striking small and limited Serbian targets has failed to frighten the aggressors," Foreign Ministry Spokeman Morteza Sarmadi said. On the other hand, Sarmadi said, arms embargo against Bosnia- Herzegovina at a time when the Serbian agressors are armed to the teeth, is like letting the Muslims among the Serbs handcuffed.

"Europe has so far been helpless in administering justice and establishing peace in the heart of Europe and continuation of crisis will certainly have grave consequences for the future of the region," he said.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman said the Islamic Republic of Iran has time and again announced that the (Serb) aggressors can only understand the language of force.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Unfortunately, Sarmadi said, the procrastination of the U.N. and big powers which are members of the U.N. Security Council has caused the crisis and war in Bosnia-Herzegovina to drag on. The aggression of Croatian Serbs on Bihac which is part of Bosnia-Herzegovina proved once again that it was not a civil war but an aggression launched from beyond the internationally accepted border of a U.N. member state whose boundaries should be protected by the international community.

German Intelligence Denies 'Warning' Report

LD2211195094 Tehran IRNA in English 1435 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bonn, Nov. 22, (IRNA)—Spokesman for German Customs Intelligence (ZKA), Leonard Bierl here on Monday [21 November] denied a report published on the November 18 issue of the London-based weekly, FOREIGN REPORT, that ZKA had given warning that an Indian consortium is building a pesticide plant in Iran.

Speaking in an interview with IRNA, Bierl said that his office has not published any comment on possible establishment of a pesticide plant in Iran by an Indian consortium which might produce chemical warfare.

He said, "every now and then rumors similar to that of foreign report are being spread, accuracy or inaccuracy of which is not clear to us." He expressed surprise that foreign report would publish such a report attributing it to the German customs intelligence.

Foreign report had claimed that Indian consortium is building a pesticide plant in Iran which might be linked to the production of chemical weapons. "ZKA documents point out that not all the equipment required for the project can be supplied from India. For items such as reactor vessels and graphite heat-exchangers, Iran is making approaches to European companies," FOREIGN REPORT had claimed.

Activist Claims Germany Helping Tehran Regime

AU2211095294 Munich FOCUS in German 21 Nov 94 pp 96-100

[Interview with human rights activist Manouchehr Ganji by W. Dietl and J. Hufelschulte; place and date not given: "'Infusions to a Dying Regime'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [FOCUS] You appeared as witness at the so-called "Mykonos trial" recently. You saw the defendants—are they all guilty of murdering the four members of the Iranian opposition in Berlin's Mykonos restaurant?

[Ganji] It is actually the Iranian state that is on trial. No Western government doubts that the Iranian state is behind these attacks.

[FOCUS] How can you be so sure?

[Ganji] Many Iranian terrorists have been caught red-handed and released afterwards. Where did they go? They all returned to Iran.

[FOCUS] Should conclusions be drawn from that?

[Ganji] Certainly. But some Western governments close their eyes to this through laziness. This is wrong. They ought to be much more careful.

[FOCUS] What does that mean in the case of the FRG?

[Ganji] There are over 3 million Muslims in Germany. They will be increasingly interfering in Germany's internal affairs. Tehran supports fundamentalist groups in Germany financially, as it does in Turkey, Sudan, and in France. These groups are a permanent problem.

[FOCUS] Do you think that radical islamists are considered a threat in Germany; are they under control?

[Ganji] That depends on whether you are talking about politics or the judicial authorities.

[FOCUS] What about the judicial authorities?

[Ganji] I have high regard for the Federal Public Prosecutor in Karlsruhe. Thank goodness, German justice authorities are independent.

[FOCUS] Is it true that you had a secret meeting with Public Prosecutor Jost at the Franco-German border near Saarbruecken?

[Ganji] Yes, but what do you mean by secret? I told him a lot about the Iranian Government's terrorist network, as I did at the trial. We can do this, as we have our sources in Tehran.

[FOCUS] And what do they tell you?

[Ganji] We know details of the Iranian Embassy's intelligence activities—but we are not the only ones. The German Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution also has good knowledge of these activities. Our sources in Tehran tell us that Iranian agents have been sent to Germany and have even been trained in your country. We know that the Germans sell sophisticated espionage technology to Iran.

[FOCUS] Can you give me an example?

[Ganji] Let me give you an example of a few weeks ago. The freighter the Iran Kolahdouz came to Hamburg in September and loaded some innocuous goods there. The ship left Hamburg and met with another ship just outside German territorial waters shortly afterwards. Mysterious goods, probably embargoed products, were reloaded on the open seas.

[FOCUS] Are the German security authorities aware of this?

[Ganji] I am certain that the German Government is aware of such transactions. But they do not draw the necessary conclusions.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[FOCUS] So you are none too fond of the government in Bonn?

[Ganji] Are you surprised? Germany is the biggest partner of the Iranian injustice government in many respects. Our people have a good memory; they will not forget that. We have a high opinion of the Germans, but what the government does is not in the interest of human rights and humanity. The Tehran regime is dying—and Germany is giving it infusions.

[FOCUS] Which German politicians are acting as emergency doctors?

[Ganji] Over the past few years, Mr. Genscher was the closest ally of the regime. I think he still is.

[FOCUS] Whom else do you want to rebuke?

[Ganji] Listen, this is not about individuals. But, basically, I cannot understand that Germany with its past should feed that fascist regime, thus becoming its ally. Why are people like Information Minister Fallahian invited to Bonn, why are they courted? So that German industry can increase its turnover by a few billion marks?

[FOCUS] You are convinced that the four assassinations in Berlin's "Mykonos" restaurant were carried out by the Iranian secret service. Have there been any other commissioned murders that you know of?

[Ganji] The murderers of former Iranian Prime Minister Bakhtiar are being tried in Paris at the moment. For the prosecution it is clear that this murder was a state terrorist operation by Iran. I myself told the Berlin court about the assassination of my two deputies. And there is another murder in Bonn that has not been clarified to date.

[FOCUS] You mean the death of Iranian artist Freydoun Farokhzad in August 1992?

[Ganji] Four people from the Iranian Embassy in Bonn had tried to put Farokhzad onto me and my organization. He told me that himself. I asked him not to meet these people again by any means. But he did all the same. So I broke off any contact with him.

[FOCUS] That is said to have meant his death sentence.

[Ganji] Yes. How could he have been of any more use to the opposite side? He did not produce the necessary results; and he knew too much. He was to be a mole in our organization. But it did not work out. That is why he was killed. These people have no scruples. Do not underestimate them.

[FOCUS] An order has been issued, calling for your death, similar to Salman Rushdie.

[Ganji] They have tried several times to kill me. They have tried to trap me, asked me to attend secret talks. Even delegates of President Rafsanjani wanted to get me to secret meetings twice. I rejected these offers.

[FOCUS] How do you live with the constant threat?

[Ganji] When the danger is so big, you develop an incredible strength that enables you to go on serving the cause. I am like a soldier on the battlefield. My battlefield is democracy and human rights.

[FOCUS] If it is proved that the government in Tehran commissioned the defendants in Berlin to commit four murders, what consequences should this have for the Iranian Embassy in Bonn?

[Ganji] The embassy would have to be closed down immediately; no doubt about that. Apart from that, the Federal Government would have to go to the United Nations and apply for sanctions.

[FOCUS] Would you be content with that?

[Ganji] Bonn could halt trade or bring the matter before the International Court of Justice. The question is whether Tehran would acknowledge that institution at all.

[FOCUS] Are you respected in Germany as one of Tehran's most severe critics? Do you have friends among German politicians?

[Ganji] No. I have only had one single meeting; that was years ago. I met with one of the chancellor's advisers, Mr. Teltschik.

[FOCUS] What was the result?

[Ganji] Zero. He only wanted me to give him information; he may even have wanted to sound me out. In no way did he intend to support our cause. No help was to be expected from him.

Paper on Velayati's Tour of Yemen, Oman, Qatar

LD2211135994 Tehran IRNA in English 1212 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 22, IRNA—The English-language daily, KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL, on Tuesday [22 November] termed Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati's tour of Yemen, Oman and Qatar as "another proof of Tehran's commitment to strengthen regional cooperation".

Recalling Iran's stance during the civil war in Yemen earlier this year, the daily said in its editorial that Tehran, magnanimously overlooking Sanaa's support for Iraq during its imposed war aganist Iran (1980-88), took a firm stance in the interests of the Yemeni people.

Now with security and territorial integrity restored, Yemen can embark on the reconstruction process and can find Iran a reliable partner which is willing to share with them its expertise and successful experience, the daily wrote. Given Yemen's disdain for foreign domination, the daily added, the prospects of Tehran-Sanaa cooperation is bright through coordinating policies and working towards collective peace and security.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

According to the daily, Oman the country which shares with Iran the entrance to the Persian Gulf always showing prudence in its ties with Iran was the second leg of Velayati's tour. The same prudence, the daily commented, if shown towards Yemen would surely be in the political and economic interest of Muscat and the region.

The daily wrote that tension only benefits outsiders and that in Iran the Omani officials would surely find a friendly neighbour ready to help them build a bridge of trust with Yemen. It said the two can even explore the goals and prospects of joint development projects in a third country such as Yemen.

Qatar the last leg of the Iranian foreign minister's tour could be another vital link in this chain, the daily said.

On the economic front Iran has offered to cater to the needs of Qatar's thriving markets with its varied industrial and consumer output. In political field, Iran has always supported Qatar's territorial integrity. There are many areas of mutual interest between tehran and the three regionl countries and Tehran always supporting their territorial integrity expects the same in return, the daily concluded.

Kazakh Supreme Council Chairman Begins Visit

LD2311120094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Heading a delegation, the chairman of the Kazakh Supreme Kenges [Council] arrived in Tehran today. He was welcomed by Mr. ['Ali Akbar] Nateq-Nuri, speaker of the Islamic Majles. On arrival in Tehran, Mr. Kekilboyev explained the aim of his visit:

[Begin Kekilboyev recording, in Kazakh with superimposed Persian translation] Iran is among the most important countries. It enjoys an especial position in Kazakhastan's foreign policy. He added: This visit could have great influence in strengthening the ties between both countries. [end recording]

The Majles speaker stressed the expansion of relations and in view of the common culture and potential ability of the two countries in the commercial and economic fields, he added:

[Begin Nateq-Nuri recording] Despite the unwillingness of those who do not like Iran to have or to expand ties with other countries especially with its neighbors, we believe that we should have extensive ties especially with our neighbors in Central Asia. There are potentials in Iran that they could use. Also there are potentials in those countries that could have an effect on our economic and trade dealings. I think establishment of ties with these countries could contribute well toward the transfer of the experiences of our revolutionary country to our friendly and neighboring countries. These visits will also contribute to other political, economic, and commercial issues. Naturally, economic issues will be discussed. Trade will be discussed. Executive officials are accompanying his excellency. We will follow the [topics] in our meeting, God willing, and [the visit] will be useful. [end recording]

China, Russia Interested in Atomic Cooperation

LD2311093694 Tehran IRNA in English 0620 GMT 23 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 23, IRNA—An English-language daily Wednesday [23 November] wrote that countries such as China and Russia are interested in cooperating with Iran in the development of technology for the peaceful application of atomic energy. Iran's use of atomic energy has been a much commented on issue in recent years, wrote 'IRAN NEWS' in its editorial.

The international community has to undertake a serious evaluation of the use of atomic energy and reach fundamental decisions on the ways of best applying it, the article said. Furthermore, it noted, there is a need for clearly expressed and uniform procedures for the application of nuclear power, without leaving any room for double standards in this regard.

"The industrialized nations have no right to deprive Third World countries of the benefits of nuclear energy by citing spurious pretexts while they themselves go on developing methods for a greater and more widespread use of the same at reduced production costs", it commented.

The international atomic energy agency (IAEA) has made repeated inspections of the various nuclear units in Iran, it said, adding that all of the IAEA reports confirm that Iran lacks the capability to manufacture nuclear arms and that the use of atomic energy in this country has been confined to peaceful applications.

"It is only right that Iran should accept the help and develop the technology for the use of nuclear energy under the supervision of IAEA," the paper suggested. It concluded by saying, "we should avoid the pitfalls that could offer opportunities for adverse publicity being used against us by countries that are inimical to our best interests."

Commentary on Dispute Over Islands, Court

NC1911191294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1750 GMT 19 Nov 94

[Station political commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] For almost a year the shaykhs of the Persian Gulf region, particularly those in the United Arab Emirates, have been making irresponsible statements every now and then on the question of the three Iranian islands of Abu Musa, Tunb al-Kubra, and Tunb al-Sughra. This has resulted in lukewarm relations between the region's states and Iran.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Naturally, these statements are instigated by some Western states, particularly the United States, and this is something which is beyond the control of the region's shaykhs. The Iranian islands are of great importance to Iran, considering their strategic position. Our enemies know this very well; therefore, they are trying to separate these islands from Iran. In addition, the United States has for years been hoping to control these islands with a view to controlling the world's energy lifeline. Now, the United States has come to the region with all its might hoping to achieve this objective.

In the meantime, the UAE, backed by the United States, is seeking to refer the case of the Iranian islands to the International Court of Justice in The Hague. For its part, the Islamic Republic of Iran has called for a peaceful solution to this problem through amicable talks. It has demonstrated its goodwill by sending its foreign minister on a visit to the UAE, but unfortunately the UAE, backed by some countries such as the United States, Britain, and a number of regional Arab countries, is trying to internationalize the issue of the islands. The two countries must first agree on referring the matter to arbitration at the International Court of Justice. However, we see no justification for this because the case is well- documented for us. In addition, referring this matter to arbitration requires an agreement between the two countries under which any dispute between them would be referred to the court in The Hague. Thus, the UAE's claims cannot be raised at the International Court in the absence of an agreement between the two countries in this connection.

In other words, by accepting the status quo Iran sees no need to refer the case to the court in The Hague. It should be mentioned here that in cases threatening world peace and security and if there is a document proving the existence of a dispute, the Security Council may seek the advice of the International Court, and in such cases the court's views would be merely advisory and not binding.

Based on the above, the UAE absolutely cannot refer the case to the International Court of Justice. We can add here that the question of the islands could be resolved through the UAE's full compliance with the 1971 agreement, which stipulates that Abu Musa, Tunb al-Sughra, and Tunb al-Kubrah are Iranian islands and which addresses the issue of the Arabs living on the islands. If the UAE has a problem in this regard, it could be resolved through talks in Tehran.

Commentary on Middle East Peace Process

95LA0046B Tehran HAMSHAHRI in Persian 3 Nov 94 p 15

[Article by Mohammad Javad Larijani from "Political Views" column]

[FBIS Translated Text] The United States and Israel are clearly rushing to rescue Israel from its isolation in the Islamic world and define a new role for it in the region. They use every excuse to open embassies and offices in the Islamic countries. Politicians in Washington have exerted great pressure on Arab governments to allow Israel to enter into the Middle East economy and markets. The question is, why so much rush and haste? What is being developed that requires such urgency? I believe that besides the American goal of dominating the Middle East, there are two other important issues that have caused the United States and Israeli urgent behavior. The first issue is the vast social changes that are taking place in the Islamic world, especially in the Middle East. Westerners have tried to exploit the excuse of fundamentalism to crush the movement and present it as a foreign and unrealistic phenomenon. However, reality is different. Interestingly, this social movement is strongest in those countries about which the United States and Israel are most sensitive, such as Egypt, Jordan, Algeria, and the occupied territories. It has become clear to them that there is no sign indicating a brighter future. The success of the Islamic movement is not considered an idealistic issue any more. Obviously, the more political power the Islamic movements gain, the more difficult it will become for Israel to be accepted, and the Islamic threat will become more serious. Therefore, Israel will win by gaining legitimacy as quickly as possible. The second issue is the decline in value to Western interests of the usurper Israel. When the United States and Soviet Union were in competition, the Zionist entity was used by America to impose itself on the region and enter into Egypt and other countries, while the Soviet Union had attracted the hearts and minds of thousands of people under the slogan of socialism and Arab nationalism. Now that the Soviet empire has fallen, what role can Israel play in order to justify the U.S. investment in the region's rejected entity [Israel]? This has become especially important in an age of tough competition when capital is becoming more scarce. If Israel faces a threat under such conditions, who will pay for the U.S. troops to come to its defense? In the Persian Gulf, petrodollars from Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE [United Arab Emirates] have come to the rescue. But in Palestine, there is no such generous entity. Therefore, if Israel does not succeed in presenting to the United States and the West a new role for itself during these last years of the 20th century, it will face difficult times during the next century. For the above reasons, the American-Israeli project in the Middle East has assumed urgent proportions. What is in store for the future? What are the chances of success for this project? The strong emphasis on symbolism is indicative of numerous difficulties facing those behind this project. They want to prevent a weakening of morale in the face of apparent signs showing that 'Arafat has reached his end in Gaza and Jericho. He is facing both Palestinian and Israeli pressures. Israel's treatment of 'Arafat is very humiliating. He was not even invited to the so-called celebrations for peace with Jordan! Also, Israel is rejected strongly by the Muslim masses, such as those in Egypt. Perhaps Israel's

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

best chance lies in direct access to the petrodollars of the littoral countries of the southern shore of the Persian Gulf.

Students View Problems in 4 Nov Marches

NC2211104694 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 14 Nov 94 p 9

["Text" of a statement by the All-Iran Islamic University Students Associations' Union, Daftar-e Tahkim-e Vahdat, issued in Tehran; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] The day of 4 November is one of the fateful dates in our country's history, a history during which some important and fateful events coincided and combined to make this day a very significant and memorable one.

The characteristics of this date include, in particular, the victory over the criminal U.S. den of espionage at the hands of the competent Muslim student followers of the imam's line and its being named the "national day of struggle against the powers of world arrogance spearheaded by the United States" by the third Majles. The commemoration of this day of God, 4 November, goes beyond the celebration of a historic event; it has been transformed into a time and place for consolidating and proclaiming one of the pure, inherent, and distinctive traits of the revolution, that is, combating and struggling against the powers of world arrogance and the criminal United States.

Every year the days in the middle of Aban [22 November-21 December] are an appropriate opportunity to renew the invincible covenant between the ummah and the leadership in continuing the path of the struggle in its every dimension and form to enhance the fervor of anti-American sentiments in society.

But, alongside this issue, in the past few years, the nature of these ceremonies and the method of selecting those who organize events have generated argument and debate among university students and the country's official propaganda machine. Every year this diverts attention from the main issue; it has raised questions on the sidelines of the ceremonies due to the discrimination and blatant differences regarding gaining access to the tribunes [preceding word in English] and mass media between the two sides involved.

So, some unrealistic accusations are made against students and, due to the plethora of baseless remarks and rumor, the facts remain concealed from the public. Thus, the Muslim students are treated in a flagrantly oppressive manner. But our union—despite all the restrictions on its use of the mass media—has constantly striven to direct all its efforts toward enlightening society and eliminating all doubt.

Even in the current year, because of some incorrect and inappropriate policies by the official propaganda machine, some difficulties emerged for our separate march on 4 November. We believe the difficulties should be revealed so that society is aware of some facts, which are cited below:

As in the past, during the course of their revolutionary struggle before the victory of the revolution, the revolutionary students incorporate anti-imperialist and anti-American actions and slogans as one of the strategic axes of their struggle and aspirations. Following the revolution victory, thanks to the inspiration of the great architect of the Islamic revolution, the students instilled greater depth and intensity in their struggles while preserving their strategic stance. Eventually the turning point came, when some of the political faces in society were willingly or unwillingly directed toward leniency and compromise with the criminal United States. These students occupied the den of U.S. corruption and espionage, thus disgracing the archsatan and dealing a radical blow to its form. This revived the anti-U.S. spirit in society and showed the wishes of the revolution's leadership.

The 4 November ceremonies, with all their grandeur, have headed the agenda marking the continuing struggle as one of the most prominent and shining displays of anti-U.S. fervor in society. The revolutionary students invested all their efforts so that this day should not suffer the same sorry fate as other similar divine days in the revolution and become covered in the dust of oblivion as time passes, eventually being erased from memory.

A glance at the history of the 4 November ceremonies from 1359 [year beginning 21 March 1980] to 1369 [year beginning 21 March 1990] confirms that the Muslim revolutionary students have constantly been in charge of inviting people and convening these ceremonies, since they are the members of the Islamic students association centralized in the Daftar-e Tahkim-e Vahdat union and are rightfully entitled to the pride and glory of occupying the den of spies.

All the various levels of society, with their growing zeal and enthusiasm, have participated together with the revolutionary students in these ceremonies. The programs for these years have been correct and principled, programs adopted by the revolutionary forces. Today this rightfulness has been reaffirmed in society as is evident from the various analyses of these celebrations. But no such earnest feeling or fervor has been observed over the years among the official propaganda machine toward celebrating this occasion.

In 1368 [year beginning 21 March 1989] we witnessed that the Propaganda Coordination Council [PCC]—for reasons mostly political and factional—suddenly displayed much interest in convening the 4 November ceremonies, which generated great tension and differences among the students hitherto in charge of arranging these celebrations and the PCC. In the ensuing negotiations with the esteemed council, the students' principled stance was based, as in previous years, on preserving the spontaneous and populist form of the ceremonies so that

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

the strategic and principled policies of the revolution, with regard to the United States and an overall struggle against the United States with regional and internal bases, might not be forgotten.

The students believe that 4 November is the day when all anti-American sentiments and feelings against the powers of world arrogance should be expressed without any diplomatic considerations or political restrictions, to intimidate the enemies of the revolution, especially the criminal United States. By convening these ceremonies ebulliently, the popular groups will not jeopardize the government's diplomatic or political relations. The event will provide a stronger lever in the hands of those who formulate and implement international policy. If they realize its value and believe in it in essence, they can even capitalize on it to the full in the sphere of political relations.

The students believe that the struggle against the United States and the raising of slogans against it is impossible and a hollow claim without attending to the various aspects of this struggle, such as opposition and objection to its regional bases, to its unbridled capitalism and overbearing attitude, and to the obsequious reactionaries who have bartered their all to Zionism and whose hands are stained with the blood of Muslim youth and poverty and injustice—in brief a struggle against American-style Islam.

The Coordination Council did not accept belief in these issues or the insistence upon them in speeches, in slogans, or in the resolutions adopted by the students in the 4 November gatherings, because of particular expediencies. In practice this has meant two separate ceremonies have been held since 1370. Every year the same controversy between the students and the Coordination Council recurs and there seems no solution in sight.

Nevertheless we have seen that the Islamic students' association every year is subjected to unwarranted accusations to drive a wedge among the nation's ranks and to tarnish national unity. One of the scourges of our society is the lack of accountability, especially if officials or administrative departments are involved. In addition to undermining national unity this also erodes the general confidence of the people. Among the points incorporated in our Constitution, which have been given much attention and concern, is the issue of the social and political rights of the various levels of society in freedom of thought and free expression of beliefs and viewpoints within the framework of the overall system.

Based on the clear text of the Constitution, everyone is free to stage gatherings and marches that do not disrupt Islamic bases; this is considered to be among the social rights of every level of society. With regard to 4 November and other events as they have seen fit, the revolutionary university students have availed themselves of this natural and constitutional right in the past few years. As long as these ceremonies are staged within the framework of the law no one has the right to stop them.

But, unfortunately, the interfering hand of factional and parochial narrowmindedness in the past few years has extended toward this natural and legitimate social right. In recent years we have witnessed conspicuous signs of such impinging on these rights in the form of the Interior Ministry's withholding permits for student marches on 4 November. What is worse is that we have had to endure the contradictory excuses and justifications by this ministry, contravening the law to rationalize its actions. Our nation knows that last year some of these figures very proudly assumed the responsibility for such blatant flouting of the Constitution and of the sociopolitical rights of individuals and society and gave their colleagues the glad tidings that such behavior would continue. For this they were greeted with praise.

But the revolutionary university students defended their legitimate rights in the face of various pressures based on what they have learned from the imam (peace be upon him) and his sanguinary revolution as well as from the exhortations of our great leader, who has encouraged the analytical and political spirit in us. Fortunately, our nation witnessed the outcome in the form of Interior Ministry permission to stage our own march this year. By the grace of God this issue will herald the sensitivity of the various levels of society on the defense and use of this lawful sociopolitical right and more enlightened and correct behavior by the administrative officials.

On the 4 November ceremonies, this year too the revolutionary Muslim university students prepared themselves at length for the 4 November ceremonies—just as in previous years—so that if the PCC were to display a logical and principled approach regarding the principled wishes of the students, joint marches would be held on that day. Otherwise the students would stage a separate march alongside (not against) the official ceremonies to express and proclaim the principled slogans that are subject to restrictions in the official marches.

The PCC displayed no positive conduct regarding a compromise with the students and did not invite this union to participate in its sessions as it did in previous years. In the days preceding the ceremonies, no effort was made by any department, organization, or individual regarding the manner of convening the 4 November ceremonies. There was no consultation regarding the coordinated staging of the marches. As a result, the students' marches were held with the extensive and remarkable participation of students and all the levels of the revolutionary nation on Tuesday 1 November. On Wednesday 2 November the PCC held its marches.

Hoping for greater enlightenment among the members of the official propaganda machine, we express our regret at the thoughtless and unrealistic opinions voiced in the past few days by some individuals and organizations. These opinions were voiced without any attention to the aforementioned issues or toward the obligations neglected by the PCC in inviting all the relevant organizations. Instead the council made irresponsible remarks

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

based on factional and cliquish prejudices and issued a categorical condemnation of the revolutionary students. Such hasty stances away from truth and justice will only deal a blow to the prestige and credibility of such organizations and generate mistrust among the various strata of society, especially among the revolutionary students.

[Signed] The All-Iran Islamic Students' Associations Union, Daftar-e Tahkim-e Vahdat

Need Seen for Inquiry Into Fate of Abducted Clerics

NC2011140994 Tehran SALAM in Persian 10 Nov 94 p 12

[Commentary M. Veysi: "The Rule of Law, but in What Direction?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Lebanese judicial authorities recently announced that they intend to reactivate the dossier of the explosion at the U.S. and French bases in Beirut which took place during the occupation of that country by the Zionists and resulted in their humiliating exit from Lebanon. The Lebanese authorities intend to impeach those who were involved in the explosion.

There is no doubt that the end to the hardship-generating wars in Lebanon and the return of relative calm to that country except for its occupied southern region which is still under Israeli usurpation has provided the Lebanese Government the opportunity to reassert its sovereignty, to reorganize the country's affairs, and to review some incidents and events that were not possible in the course of the past war. This would enable it to identify those lackeys and those who committed treason against the country and to mete out their punishment.

We consider this a good sign for the establishment of the rule of law and we view the arrests and impeachment of traitors such as Samir Ja'ja' and the disbanding of his affiliated group in the same light.

However, the Lebanese Government should be heedful of the source of the opportunity it has today for establishing law and order. This relative restoration of the Lebanese Government has been made possible by the heroism and combatant struggles of those who shed their blood to oust the usurpers from the Lebanese homeland. These fighters cannot possibly be equated with the groups who were characterized by cliques, power lust, fanning the flames of civil war, links with foreigners. For these fighters, Lebanon's independence was all that mattered.

Therefore, this move should not be toward imposing restrictions on the founders of the current independence in Lebanon. On the other hand, it appears that more important and living events such as the dossier of the four Iranian hostages in Lebanon, the abduction of the fighters such as al-Dirani and Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd and the martyring of such eminent leaders such as Shaykh Raqib Harb and Sayyid 'Abbas al-Musawi demand greater attention than the exhumation of soldiers in favor of the Zionist usurpers!

French Reporters, Artists Provide Moral Support

95LA0049B London KEYHAN in Persian 3 Nov 94 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] The French organization Reporters Without Borders has sent a letter to the Embassy of the Islamic Republic in Paris, together with cartoons drawn by 24 of the most famous French cartoonists, in defense of cartoonist Manouchehr Karimzadeh and freedom of speech. On 20 October, the day to honor imprisoned journalists, Reporters Without Borders invited 24 French cartoonists to draw cartoons in support of Manouchehr Karimzadeh. Karimzadeh was sentenced by the regime's courts to 10 years imprisonement because he had drawn the picture of a football player who remotely resembled Khomeyni. Reporters Without Borders sent these cartoons, together with a letter, to the Embassy of the Islamic Republic in Paris. Some of these cartoons, which have been provided to London KEYHAN by that organization, will be published over time. The first cartoon is published above. [cartoon not included]

*World Reaction to Writers' Open Letter

95LA0049A London KEYHAN in Persian 3 Nov 94 pp 1, 9

[FBIS Translated Text] Publication of "Statement by 134 Writers"—an open letter from 134 Iranian writers, poets, thinkers, and translators protesting restrictions on freedom of speech in the Islamic Republic—has reverberated widely in important mass media organs around the world. This statement, which was published for the first time in the London KEYHAN, has also appeared in important newspapers, was broadcast over radio and television stations, and was reported by global news services. This is the first time that close to 150 Iranian writers residing in Iran have issued a joint statement and have risen against censorship. As a result, important organs of the global mass media have reported on the statement. A REUTER's reporter from Tehran has written: One hundred and thirty-four Iranian writers have protested censorship and investigation into the private lives of writers in Iran. One of the signatories, Reza Baraheni, has told REUTER: This open letter has been sent to all members of the regime. He added: "Writers need freedom of thought and speech to be able to fulfill their mission. They have asked that cultural censorship stop." In his telephone conversation with REUTER, Reza Baraheni added: "When writers are unable to face censorship and repression individually, they must resist collectively. For this reason, we have determined to achieve freedom of speech and removal of repression and censorship as a group." REUTER adds: Writers are not allowed in Iran to publish their books independently. Informed sources report that the ministry of Islamic culture and guidance has stopped the publication of 10s of books.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Rection of the Islamic regime

One day after publication in KEYHAN of the open letter by 134 writers against censorship and repression and subsequent quoting by worldwide mass media, including the Persian program on Israeli radio, BBC's international program and the newspaper INDEPENDENT, the newspaper JUMHURI-E ESLAMI published an interview with 'Ali Akbar Sa'idi Sirjani in its last Wednesday issue (parts of the interview were published separately.) The statement by 134 Iranian writers was reflected not only in the British press but also in the French LE MONDE and LIBERATION. Also, the European and American radio programs in Persian had interviews with the writers and thinkers from inside and outside Iran about the statement, as well as censorship and repression in Iran. An anonymous Iranian writer in France said the following about this statement: I was in Tehran when this statement was being composed and suggested that more should be said in the statement about human rights so that it can serve as a major step in the fight against censorship, to be followed by stronger steps later. The English version of the statement by 134 writers will be distributed among participants at the 61st Global Congress of the International Pen in the Czech capital, Prague, on 6-12 November. At that congress, which will open with a speech by Vaclav Havel, the Czech president, two Iranians will participate for the first time. They are 'Effat Dadashpour, an Iranian journalist residing in Austria who will speak on "Impediments to the Growth of Literature in the Third World," and Ahmad Ebrahimi who will attend as an observer. The main editorial in one of last week's issues of The English language newspaper TEHRAN TIMES, which is close to the regime in Tehran, attacked the 134 writers and poets who protested censorship and repression in Iran. It wrote that the government should not attach importance to such criticism and that such voices must be silenced in their embryonic stage.

No Change Seen in OPEC Production Ceiling

LD2211220394 Tehran IRNA in English 1838 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jakarta, Nov. 22 (IRNA)—OPEC would not make any change in its production ceiling as long as the oil price did not reach dollars 21 per barrel, Iranian Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i announced here Tuesday [22 November].

Aqazadeh-Kho'i, who made the remark in a press conference here Tuesday after attending the oil ministers session, said the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), would maintain its oil output ceiling of 24.52 million bpd during 1995.

He said if the oil price did not reach its reference price of dollars 21 bpd, or if it were to drop below its current price, OPEC oil ministers will adopt new decisions in their next meeting to be held on June 19 in Vienna.

According to Aqazadeh-Kho-i, there was a likelihood that OPEC would review an increase in its production ceiling if the price reached dollars 21 or above, but in such a case, Iran might suggest a decrease in production ceiling instead.

Industries Minister on Importance of Productivity

LD2211190494 Tehran IRNA in English 1521 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 22, (IRNA)—Secretary General of the Asian Productivity Organization (APO), Kenichi Yanagi, and Iran's Minister of Industries, Mohammad Reza Ne'matzadeh, here Monday [21 November] discussed avenues for boosting Iran's cooperation with the organization.

Referring to the 50 percent growth rate of Iran's exports during the country's first 5-year development plan, Ne'matzadeh laid emphasis on quality of the goods and the importance of productivity in this regard. Ne'matzadeh said maintaining the growth rate and being present in the international markets require paying due attention to quality of goods which itself makes productivity a more important issue.

Briefing Yanagi on Iran's economic objectives, Ne'matzadeh said Iran intends to boost its non-oil exports which again is directly linked to productivity.

The Iranian minister said that Iran is to pay more attention to productivity during the second 5-year development plan and that a national productivity organization has been established following Majles approval which functions under supervision of his ministry. Iran's non-oil exports is predicted to stand at dollars 28 billion, during the second 5-year development plan. The country's non-oil exports were dollars 3.5 billion over the last year, he added.

APO was founded in 1961 to promote productivity in the Asian region and disseminate technical knowledge.

Maldives

Radio Reports Lifting of Ban on Israeli Goods

BK2311102694 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 23 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Maldives has lifted the ban on the import of Israeli goods imposed in 1981. An official announcement said that the cabinet took the decision as a gesture of support to the West Asian peace process.

Nepal

Communist Party Elects Parliamentary Leader

BK2311124394 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 23 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mr. Manmohan Adhikari has been unanimously elected the leader of the parliamentary party of the Communist Party of Nepal-UML

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[United Marxist-Lenist]. Talking to newsmen soon after his election in Kathmandu this afternoon, Mr. Adhikari said he would stake the claim to form a new government at the completion of the election process. He said he will have a minority government as there is no positive response from the Nepali Congress or the Rashtriya Prajatantra Party to join a coalition government.

As reported, the UML has emerged the single largest party in the midterm poll.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 352
MERRIFIELD, VA.

This is a U.S. Government publication. Its contents in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the U.S. Government. Users of this publication may cite FBIS or JPRS provided they do so in a manner clearly identifying them as the secondary source.

Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS) and Joint Publications Research Service (JPRS) publications contain political, military, economic, environmental, and sociological news, commentary, and other information, as well as scientific and technical data and reports. All information has been obtained from foreign radio and television broadcasts, news agency transmissions, newspapers, books, and periodicals. Items generally are processed from the first or best available sources. It should not be inferred that they have been disseminated only in the medium, in the language, or to the area indicated. Items from foreign language sources are translated; those from English-language sources are transcribed. Except for excluding certain diacritics, FBIS renders personal names and place-names in accordance with the romanization systems approved for U.S. Government publications by the U.S. Board of Geographic Names.

Headlines, editorial reports, and material enclosed in brackets [ ] are supplied by FBIS/JPRS. Processing indicators such as [Text] or [Excerpts] in the first line of each item indicate how the information was processed from the original. Unfamiliar names rendered phonetically are enclosed in parentheses. Words or names preceded by a question mark and enclosed in parentheses were not clear from the original source but have been supplied as appropriate to the context. Other unattributed parenthetical notes within the body of an item originate with the source. Times within items are as given by the source. Passages in boldface or italics are as published.

SUBSCRIPTION/PROCUREMENT INFORMATION

The FBIS DAILY REPORT contains current news and information and is published Monday through Friday in eight volumes: China, East Europe, Central Eurasia, East Asia, Near East & South Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, and West Europe. Supplements to the DAILY REPORTs may also be available periodically and will be distributed to regular DAILY REPORT subscribers. JPRS publications, which include approximately 50 regional, worldwide, and topical reports, generally contain less time-sensitive information and are published periodically.

Current DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications are listed in *Government Reports Announcements* issued semimonthly by the National Technical Information Service (NTIS), 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, Virginia 22161 and the *Monthly Catalog of U.S. Government Publications* issued by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

The public may subscribe to either hardcover or microfiche versions of the DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications through NTIS at the above address or by calling (703) 487-4630. Subscription rates will be provided by NTIS upon request. Subscriptions are available outside the United States from NTIS or appointed foreign dealers. New subscribers should expect a 30-day delay in receipt of the first issue.

U.S. Government offices may obtain subscriptions to the DAILY REPORTs or JPRS publications (hardcover or microfiche) at no charge through their sponsoring organizations. For additional information or assistance, call FBIS, (202) 338-6735,or write to P.O. Box 2604, Washington, D.C. 20013. Department of Defense consumers are required to submit requests through appropriate command validation channels to DIA, RTS-2C, Washington, D.C. 20301. (Telephone: (202) 373-3771, Autovon: 243-3771.)

Back issues or single copies of the DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications are not available. Both the DAILY REPORTs and the JPRS publications are on file for public reference at the Library of Congress and at many Federal Depository Libraries. Reference copies may also be seen at many public and university libraries throughout the United States.